PCGG to Imee: Don't block bill for Marcos victims

Story below, Col. 1

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, July 18, 2003 ★★ 66 pages / 7 sections / vol. 18 / no. 220 P15 website: www.inq7.net

US warns citizens of terror threats in RP

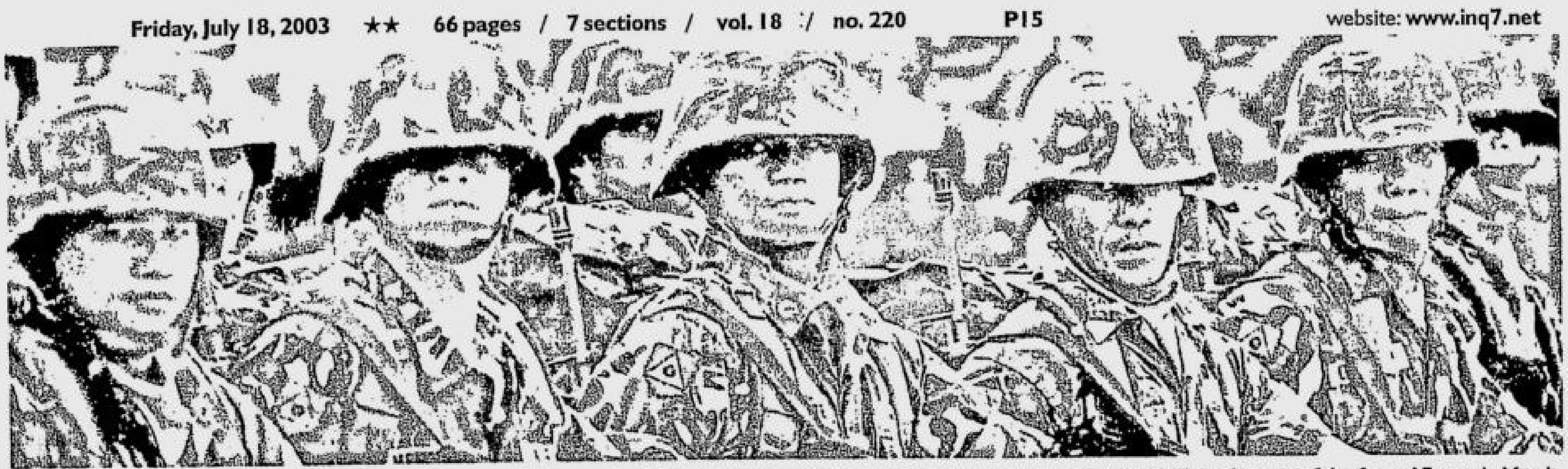
WASHINGTON—The United States on Wednesday renewed its warning to US citizens about terrorist threats in the Philippines.

In a statement, the state department said "the terrorist threat to Americans in the Philippines for kidnapping and bombings remains high, and the embassy [in Manila] continues to receive re-

US WARNS/ A19

ON TOP of a problematic police force, the President has to face up to the grievances of young officers.

EDWIN BACASMAS



THE FRONTLINERS in the fight against Moro and communist insurgents, Philippine Army soldiers pass in review at rites marking the 106th anniversary of the Armed Forces in March.

AFP FILE PHOTO

Gloria acts to quell restive young officers

Housing, low pay, graft in AFP among gripes

By Fe Zamora, *INQ7.net*

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is moving fast to quell the restiveness of a group of young, griping officers, mostly captains from the Army and the Marines, whose frequent meetings had been under surveillance for the past two weeks.

She has ordered Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya to immediately attend to the grievances of the group.

The President gave the orders on Saturday after she met in Malacañang with senior officers who had been "approached" by the young officers.

"These are legitimate grievances that should be looked into," a source who attended the meeting quoted Ms Macapagal as saying.

A "big" meeting was reportedly held at Pier 1 restaurant at The Fort last Friday, prompting Malacañang to summon the officers to the Palace the next day.

The party, according to those present, was in fact a *despedida* for an officer who was going to the United States for studies, but it also turned into yet another bull session.

The officers, mostly from the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1994 and 1995, had been complaining about their housing, low pay, incentives, corruption in the Armed Forces and the "micro-management" of the military by Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

A source told the INQUIRER that the officers had been holding meetings for the

GLORIA/ A18

GMA warns Ebdane, PNP: Shape up or ship out

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christian V. Esguerra

THE TOP dogs of the Philippine National Police have been duly warned: Shape up or ship out.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday slapped a stern ultimatum on PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane to solve the rampant corruption in the police organization. This corruption is believed to have made possible the escape from Camp Crame on Monday of convicted Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and five other prominent detainees, including two suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits.

"I hold the PNP chief and the entire leadership of the PNP accountable for resolving the problem of police corruption once and for all because it is already eating into the security of our nation," she said.

"I call on the entire PNP leadership to shape up or ship out, and I will not hesitate to undertake a top-to-bottom revamp if no results are forthcoming."

The President's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye earlier hinted that Ebdane's post was on the line. He said Ms Macapagal wanted to determine the "highest practicable" level of command responsibility.

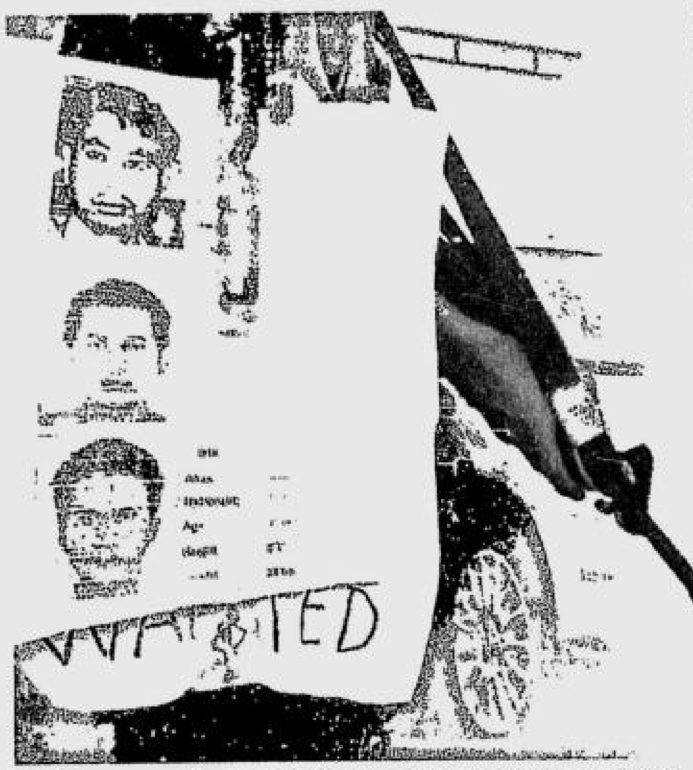
"We are interested in punishing the guilty [and] in the long-term measures leading to permanent solutions," he added.

The officers directly under Ebdane in the PNP hierarchy had varying reactions at the prospect of a revamp.

Deputy Director General Virtus Gil, deputy chief for operations and the No. 3

GMA WARNS/ A18

Ex-detainee may have helped in escape



HAVE you seen these men? Pictures of the fugitives are posted in all the country's airports and seaports where security has been tightened.

AFP

By Christian V. Esguerra and Philip C. Tubeza

A DEFECTIVE jail gate and a former Abu Sayyaf detainee helped the three high-profile terrorists bolt Camp Crame, police officials said yesterday, even as the Palace said President Macapagal-Arroyo was kept in the dark about the escape for several hours while she met with Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

A Camp Crame source said Al-Ghozi, Abdulmukin Ong Edris, and Omar Opik Lasal needed no key to unlock their cells at the Intelligence Group's old building--because they got help from ex-detainee Abu Ali.

Director Eduardo Matillano of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group said jail guards committed a major breach of security when they turned Ali into a "utility boy" after he was released on bail.

"He refused to leave the IG premises and volunteered to act as state witness against Al-Ghozi," the official said.

This enabled Ali to go in and out of the IG's old building from which the fugitives escaped early last Monday, Matillano said.

The steel gate in question, with its reportedly defective hinge, could easily be opened

EX-DETAINEE/ A19

VIRTUS GIL, PNP deputy director general for operations PDI PHOTO

Indonesians, Moro rebels join hunt

By TJ Burgonio in Manila and Edwin O. Fernandez and Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—The government has cast a wide net to recapture Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, including coordinating with the Indonesian defense department.

Even the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, eager to restart peace talks with the government, has joined in the effort, saying it was checking persistent reports about Al-Ghozi's presence in Lanao del Norte.

A ranking military commander in Davao City agreed that it was possible the confessed bomber fled to Mindanao after his escape from Camp Crame on Monday.

Task Force Davao commander Col. Gaudencio Pangilinan said it

INDONESIANS/ A19

PCGG appeals to Imee Marcos' sense of shame

By Dona Pazzibugan and Juliet Labog-Javellana

APPEALING to Ilocos Rep. Imee Marcos' sense of shame, the Presidential Commission on Good Government is asking her to stop blocking a proposed law seeking to indemnify the victims of her father's martial rule with part of the $682 million (about P36 billion) in Marcos Swiss deposits that the Supreme Court forfeited in favor of the government.

"If she had any *delicadeza*, she should simply not talk to any congressman and not lobby for defeating the bill. It is unethical at the very least," PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said yesterday.

"That's adding insult to injury to the victims. The father had them tortured and now the daughter does not want them indemnified," he added.

Carranza was referring to House Bill No. 4535 that was filed by anti-Marcos activists led by Representatives Etta Rosales and Satur Ocampo. The bill seeks to earmark about $200 million (about P10 billion) for the martial law victims.

Carranza called attention to the irony of the situation in which "the very person who is opposing the bill is the same person who lost the case (over the Swiss deposits)."

Representative Marcos and the "Ilocano bloc" in the House of Representatives want to include all human rights victims of other administrations in the compensation package. This way the abuses committed during the Marcos dictatorship are not singled out.

HB 4535 and its Senate counterpart, Senate Bill No. 1877, seek to amend the agrarian reform law so that the rights

PCGG/ A17

GMA asked to include compensation in budget

By Cynthia D. Balana and Michael Lim Ubac

REP. Rolando Andaya, chair of the House appropriations committee, yesterday asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to include the compensation for human rights victims of martial law in the proposed 2004 national budget which she would submit to Congress.

"In budget-making, the rule is: The executive proposes, the legislature disposes," Andaya said.

The budget inclusion, however, can only be made after the Supreme Court junks the motion for reconsideration to be filed by the Marcoses, according to Andaya.

"If the denial is handed down before the President submits the budget for next year, then there can be time to revise the budget," he said.

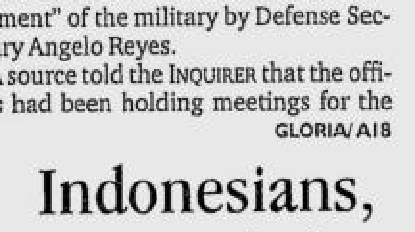
But once the ruling becomes final, the President can include the money in the proposed budget even before Congress can amend the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, according to Andaya.

The law provides that all recovered ill-gotten wealth from the Marcoses must be remitted to the Agrarian Reform Fund.

The President favors the indemnification of human rights victims using a portion of the P36 billion ($682 million) in ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses that the Supreme Court forfeited in favor of the government.

"I support the allocation of part of the funds for the compensation of human rights victims," Ms Macapagal said. "We must lend recognition to the Filipino people's struggle for freedom, justice and redemption—and the individuals

GMA/ A17


BANTAYAN N'YO NAMAN ANG KULUNGAN!
GZ

Jailed teeners escape with guards' guns

By Franklin A. Caliguid and Dennis Jay C. Santos
PDI Mindanao Bureau

BUTUAN CITY—Whether at highly fortified detention centers in Metro Manila or run-down jails in the provinces, the ineptitude of the guards never ceases to astonish.

A day after Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi

JAILED/ A19

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas, Mindoro and Northern Palawan will have rains and occasional gusty winds and the coastal water over these areas will be moderate to rough. Southern Luzon and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA; PDI RESEARCH/07/18/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains with winds
Baguio	Partly cloudy	Roxas	Rains with winds
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with rains
Laoag	Partly cloudy	Tacloban	Rains with winds
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains
Calapan	Rains with winds	Davao	Cloudy with rains

Pimentel getting ready to run again

By Christine O. Avendaño

SENATORS who voted for a Constitutional convention to tackle Charter change proposals said yesterday that it would be tough to change their mind or their vote once the issue is taken up on the Senate floor and eventually in the bicameral conference committee.

"It's really an uphill fight," Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., conceded, two days after he and seven other members of the Senate committee on constitutional amendment's voted to amend the 1987 Constitution through a constitutional convention (Con-con).

Pimentel said the chance of the Senate approving a resolution concurrent with that of the House of Representatives which calls for a constituent assembly (Consa) to amend the Constitution would depend on how committee chair Sen. Edgardo Angara argues the Consa option.

It would also depend, he said, on the "willingness of the senators to listen to the Consa view."

But with Senate President Franklin Drilon saying that the 22-member Senate would need the vote of 16 members to pass a Senate resolution endorsing the Con-con mode, Pimentel acknowledged it would be a difficult fight.

Drilon told the INQUIRER Tuesday that with his earlier resolution endorsing the Con-con mode being supported by 14 senators including him, they only need two more senators to vote in their favor in order for the Senate to adopt the Con-con mode.

The senators who supported Drilon's Jan.21 resolution were Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier, Majority Leader Loren Legarda, Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III, Senators John Osmeña, Robert Jaworski, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Noli de Castro, Ralph Recto, Panfilo Lacson, Gregorio Honasan, Luisa "Loi" Estrada, Ramon Revilla and Francis Pangilinan.

Militant farmers want Danding behind bars

BF: I need to be VP

By Margaux Ortiz

"I NEED to be vice president."

With these words, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando said yesterday he was thinking of running for the vice presidency in 2004 so he could "make people's lives better."

And if he wins, Fernando said he will do "something big."

He said he would be an active vice president, using his powers solely for the benefit of the Filipino people.

He refused to reveal what his "big" plan was, however, saying other government officials might copy it.

Before finalizing his plans, Fernando said he would seek feedback from the people.

Militants were the first to weight in with their opinion, however.

The fisher-folk group Pamalakaya urged the poor, vendors and tree lovers to campaign against Fernando's vice presidential bid.

"The idea of Fernando running in 2004 is nothing but a big joke," said Pamalakaya spokesperson Gerry Corpuz yesterday in a statement.

By Volt Contreras and Norman Bordadora

MILITANT farmers will file next week a "test case" for plunder against businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco following the recent Sandiganbayan ruling forfeiting in favor of government Cojuangco's illegally acquired shares in the United Coconut Planters Bank.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas has a "battery of lawyers" preparing the case for filing, said David Erro, the KMP legal counsel from the Sentro Para sa Tunay na Repormang Agrario.

"Aside from the landmark Sandiganbayan ruling last July 11, there is one more thing that is really long overdue concerning the struggle of small coconut farmers over the coco levy funds, and that is, seeing Cojuangco weeping behind bars," said KMP chair Danilo Ramos.

In a press forum, the KMP said Cojuangco can be charged under the 1991 Plunder Law even though the criminal act to be alleged in the suit occurred almost three decades ago.

The Sandiganbayan ruled that Cojuangco had used the coconut levy funds, collected as a forced tax from coconut farmers between 1973 and 1982 by order of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, to buy the UCPB, San Miguel Corp. shares and numerous coconut industry-related businesses.

Cojuangco, who has indicated a desire to run for the presidency next year, was appointed by the dictator as administrator of the levy.

Erro said this made him a public official which would make the plunder law "applicable" to him.

The lawyer said Cojuangco has continued to profit from his illegally acquired shares, making his acts a "continuing offense" well after the passage of the plunder law.

Finally, the money that the Sandiganbayan said Cojuangco had misused well exceeded the P50-million threshold set by the law, Erro said.

Ramos said the KMP would proceed with the plunder suit despite the earlier dismissal of up to seven coco levy-related graft cases against Cojuangco by former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto in the 1990s.

In the same forum, the KMP-allied Pamalakaya fisherfolk group cited other instances in which the coco levy funds were allegedly misappropriated by Cojuangco and his associates, and which should form the basis of "new graft charges."

These include the construction of the Coconut Palace at the Manila Bay reclamation site for $2 million in the name of the Marcos widow, Imelda; the purchase of a $1.4-million plane and $1-million helicopter for Cojuangco's personal use; the infusion of $13.7 million in ECI Challenge Corp., a holding company for Cojuangco's Pepsi Cola operations, and another $4 million in Pepsi Cola Distributors; shares worth P1.3 million in Philbake Inc., and Cocofed investments of $4.7 million in BF Homes and Philippine Infrastructure Inc., among others.

Pamalakaya chair Fernando Hicap said that quite apart from the plunder case to be filed soon by the farmers, the Philippine Commission on Good Government should revive all the criminal charges against Cojuangco and his associates relating to the levy funds.

These cases include, among others, the use of levy funds amounting to $11.3 million to settle Cojuangco and Juan Ponce Enrile's anti-trust lawsuit in the United States. The case was filed in 1990 and dismissed on June 7, 1997.

"The PCGG should take a major offensive against Cojuangco and keep Malacañang out of the picture to prevent the administration from entering into another round of secret deals and political compromise with Cojuangco," Hicap said.

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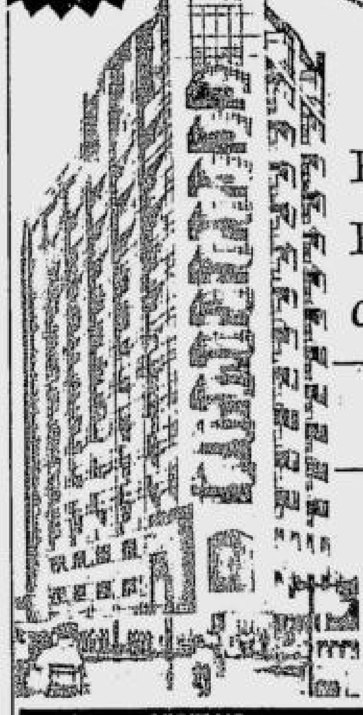

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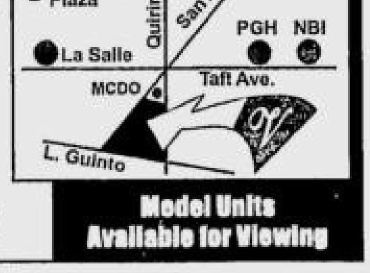

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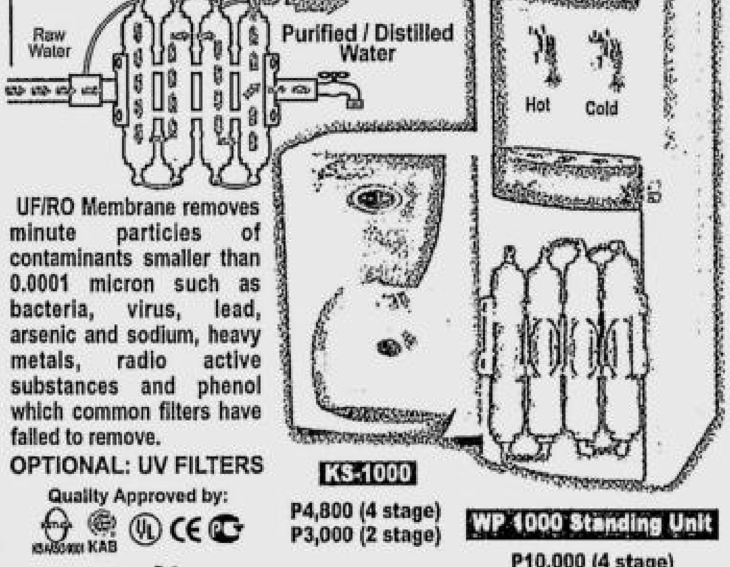

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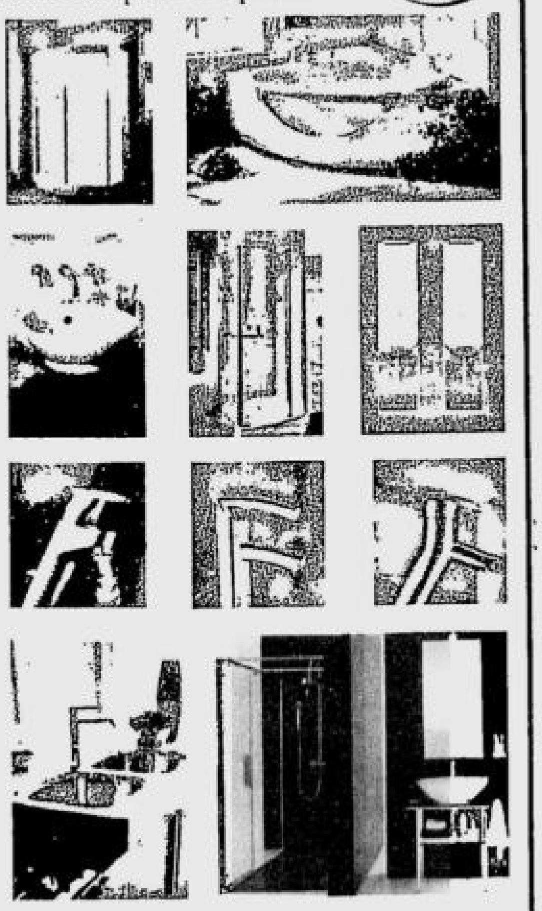

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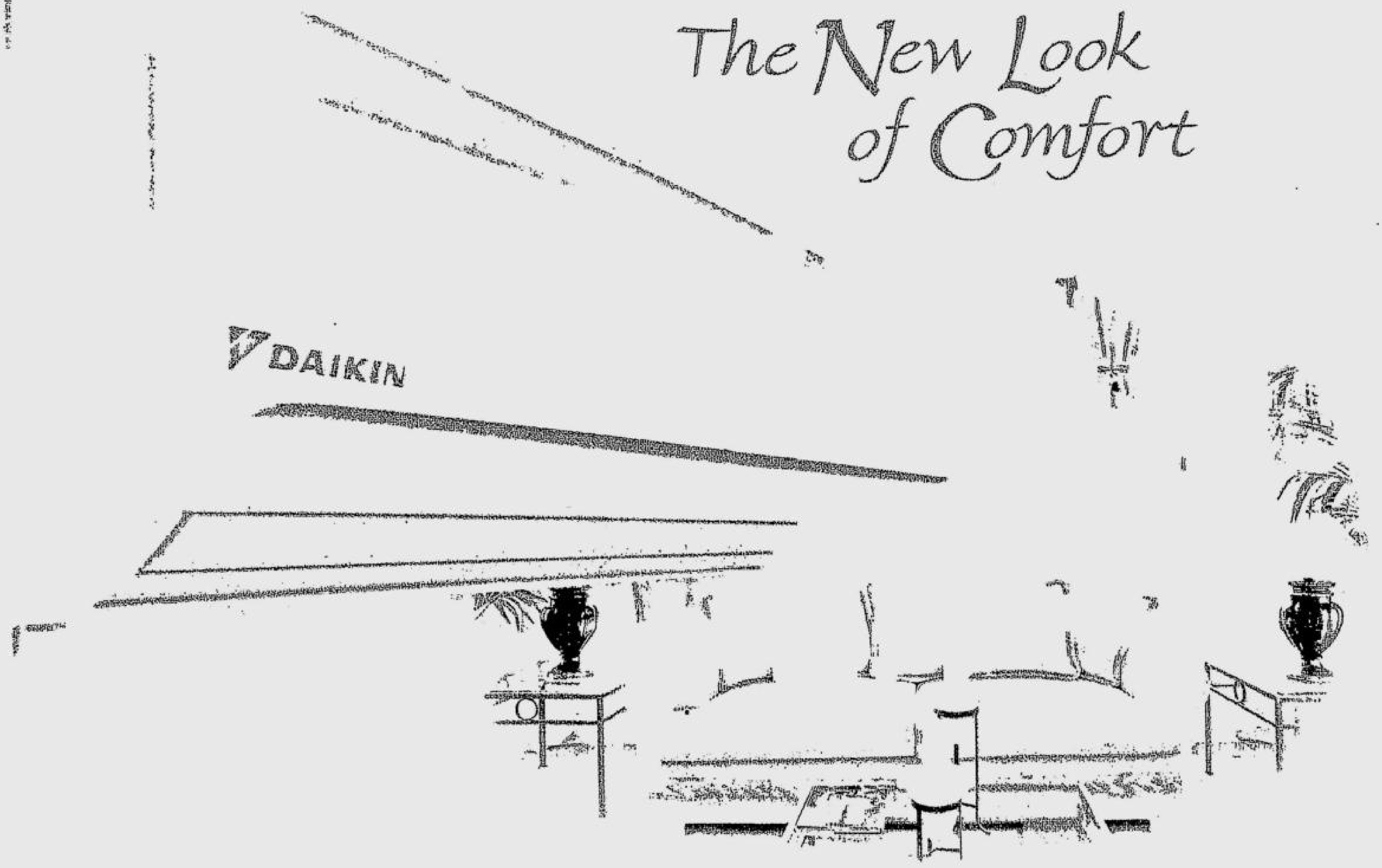

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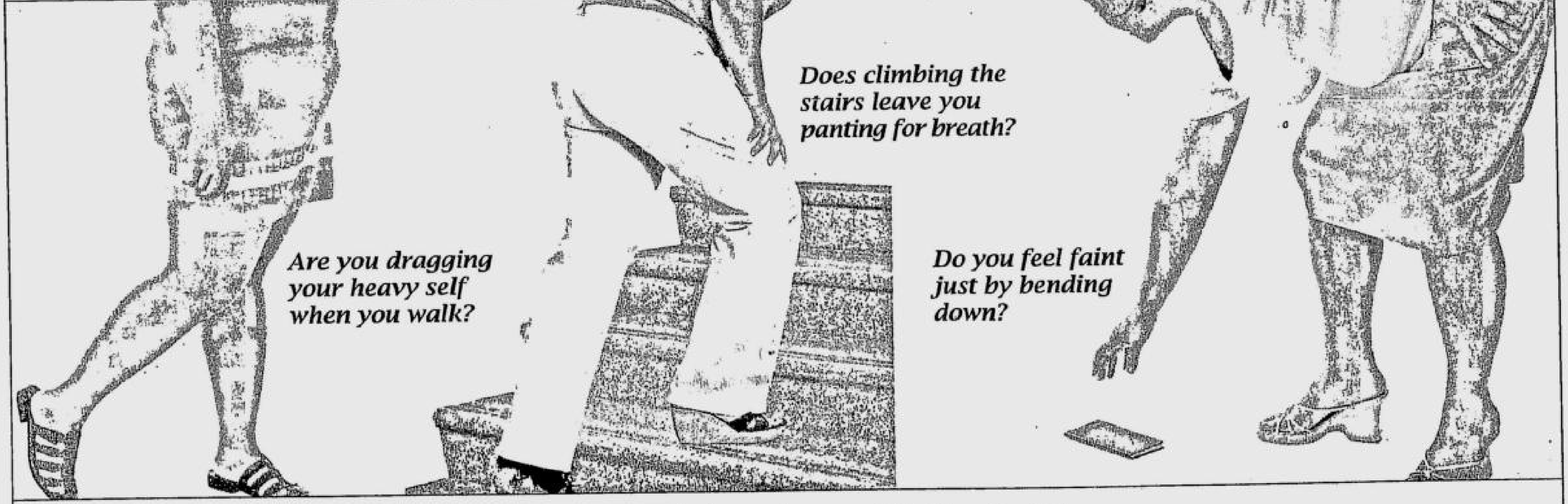
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RP now an exporter of drugs to US, says Barbers

By Michael L. Ubac

FIRST the good news.

The Philippines, Sen. Robert Barbers, said yesterday, has ceased being a transshipment point for illegal drugs coming from other Asian countries.

The bad news, according to the senator, is the country is now an exporter of drugs, particularly shabu, and particularly to North America.

"I was startled when our fellow countrymen here in the United States and Canada informed me that illegal drugs from our country was now being exported to other parts of the world. That is how alarming the proliferation of illegal drugs in our country has become," said Barbers in a statement issued in Los Angeles, California, where he is on a visit.

Barbers said the recent raids of big shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) laboratories in the Philippine proved local drug syndicates were capable of exporting drugs.

"This development is being closely monitored by Filipino communities in the US and Canada, who complained that shabu made in the Philippines has found its way to this part of the [world]," he said.

"It is high time we joined hands to seriously address the problem of drugs. As I always said, if we do not lick this problem, the Philippines will be the drug capital of Asia in five years."

Barbers, who was supposed to be the "czar" of the current anti-drug campaign, asked the Department of Justice to hasten the prosecution of drug cases in the lower courts to show drug traffickers the government means business.

Clark's DM airport is bad news for Piatco

MALACAÑANG is proposing to place the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) under the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa), ostensibly to fast-track the Clark-based facility's development into a primarily passenger terminal.

The draft Executive Order obtained by the INQUIRER from Malacañang sources says the proposed transfer is meant to harmonize the plans and programs of the DMIA and the Naia currently managed by Miaa.

But questions have been raised about the real motive for the plan, which came just two months after the Supreme Court put in limbo the operation of Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 3, which was built by the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco).

Piatco spokesperson Moises Tolentino said the move would put undue pressure on their shareholders—the Cheng family and Fraport of Germany—to agree to a settlement agreement that would pave the way for the government takeover of Naia 3. *Gil Cabacungan*

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Senators told: Show us the money

CONGRESSMEN yesterday cranked up the pressure on the Senate to support their proposal for a constituent assembly to introduce changes in the 1987 Constitution even as senators who voted for a Constitutional convention said the House members would have an uphill fight in their hands.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said that Charter change would not move forward "unless the House contingent gives in" and goes for the Con-con mode.

"You want a Constitutional convention, then show us the money," said Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr.

Andaya, who chairs the House appropriations committee, said at least P1 billion would be needed to fund a 214-member Constitutional convention on the basis of one delegate for each congressional district.

The P1 billion estimate does not even include the expenses related to the election of the Con-con delegates and the plebiscite to be called to ratify the proposed amendments.

On Monday, eight of 14 senators in the Senate committee on Constitutional amendments chaired by Sen. Edgardo Angara voted to reject the House proposal for Congress to form itself into a constituent assembly (Consa) to effect Constitutional amendments, opting instead for a Constitutional convention.

Rep. Prospero Nograles, who belongs to a Mindanao bloc of representatives, said the eight senators had voted to delay reform and added fire to the widespread discontent in Mindanao.

"It is a formula for delaying Charter change reform by eight years and would irreparably set back a major solution to the secessionist and insurgency problems of Mindanao," he said.

In the Senate, Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and John Osmeña said the Consa mode was unlikely to be adopted by the Senate, whether in the final plenary vote or in the bicameral conference committee. *Carlito Pablo and Christine Avendaño*

CORRECTION

IN THE July 17 story on Jocelyn and Vladimir Calisaan's quadruplets, the sole surviving baby, Maria Jhobelle, was described as her "28-week-old daughter." The number referred to the baby's length of stay in her mother's womb, not her age at birth.

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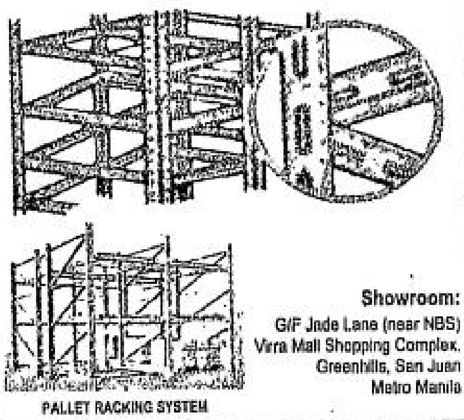

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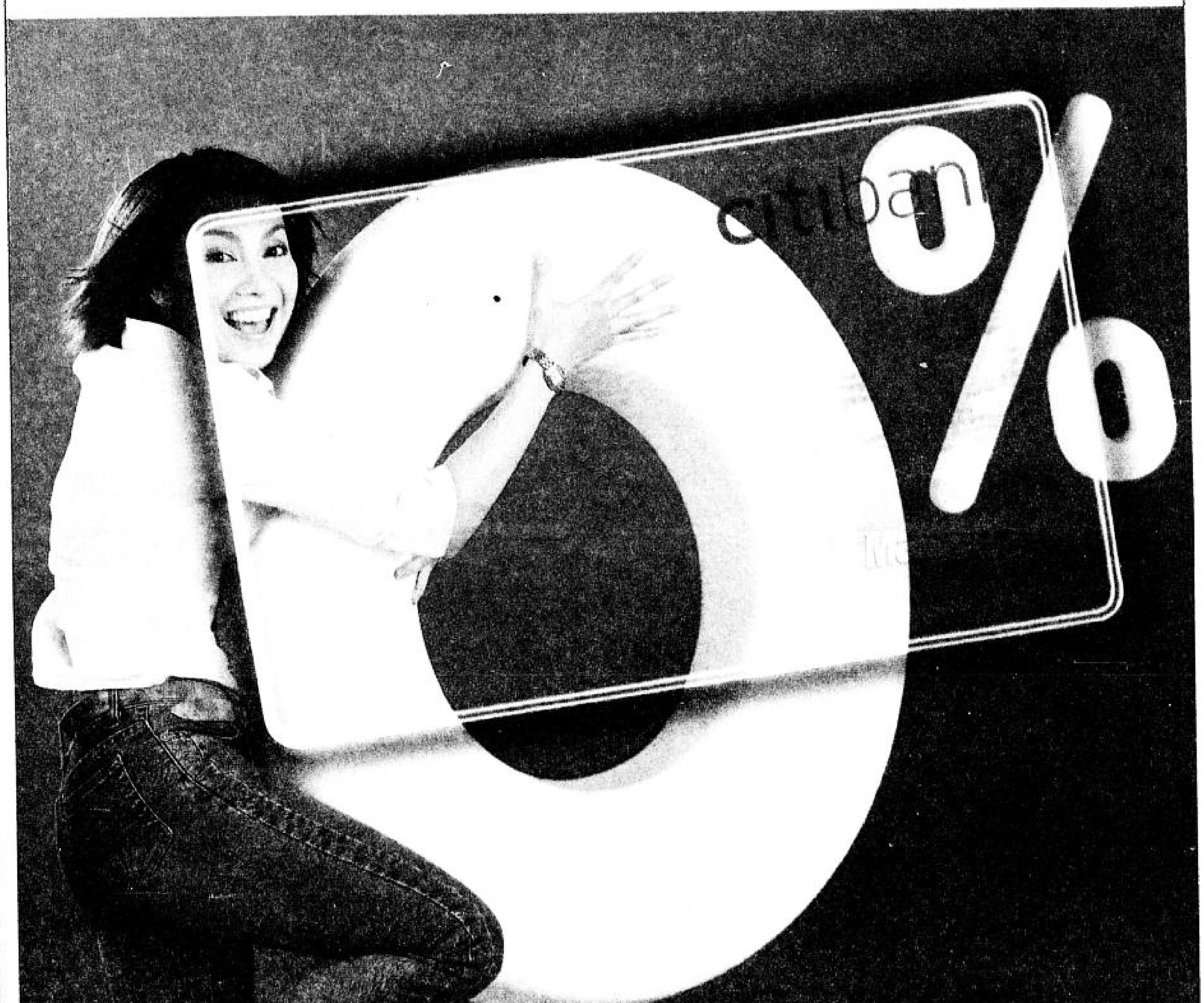

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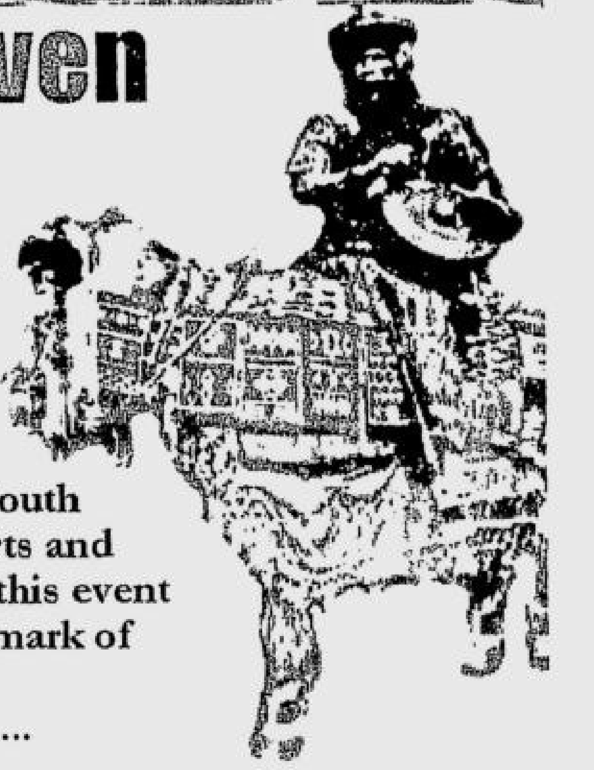
The province is once again into a kaleidoscopic display of age-old tradition of bringing to the fore its people's ingenuity through songs, dances, culinary arts and exhibit of South Cotabato's best in celebration of our 37th Foundation Anniversary aptly dubbed as the T'nalak Festival.

This is one form of merrymaking which serves as a venue for South Cotabateños to unleash its reserve of talents and expose its rich arts and culture. Likewise, measures have been put in place to ensure that this event will proceed smoothly in a spirit of peace and harmony as the hallmark of South Cotabato.

So, get a feel of how it is to be in South Cotabato. Be our guest ...
See you down south!



Places, people, food & countless opportunities

SOUTH COTABATO consists of a city and ten towns that is home to more than 700,000 people of diverse regional and ethnic traits. It prides itself with great agriculture abundance and colorful ethnic heritage of varying culture.

The province contributes significantly to the nation's food requirements and agricultural exports.

Set on a foreground of verdant valleys of vast rice, corn and vegetable farms and fruit plantations, South Cotabato managed to retain its lush mountain ranges that remain sanctuary to exotic flora and fauna, awaiting discovery. Mt. Matutum and Mt. Parker (Melebengoy), both non-active volcanoes, astride majestically over valleys and hilly terrain.

South Cotabato boasts of one of the country's best road networks. Extra-wide concrete highways link most of the towns to nearby major urban centers.

KORONADAL CITY is the capital of the province. Once a sleepy farming town, it became a bustling place with modern hotels and malls, etching itself as Central Mindanao's shopping capital. Local products and handicraft are available at the Productivity and Technology Center, the most modern in Mindanao. Take a break and try local favorites "pata" and "balbakuwa". served hot in many roadside eateries.

Two favorite destinations, LAKE SEBU and T'BOLI towns, are on the southwestern highlands of the province. Urbanites fleeing the humdrum of city life enjoy the scenic lakes and waterfalls. Be charmed by tribal folks garb in authentic traditional attire. Curio shops and novelty stores sell T'nalak cloth, other handicraft and souvenir items at incredibly low prices. Cozy lake-side inns and resorts serve the tilapia in various mouth-watering ways.

POLOMOLOK is South Cotabato's agro-industrial center. It is where fruit firm Dole Philippines, asparagus-producer Marsman-Drysdale and corn seed firm Pioneer Hybrid are based. At the town market, fruits and vegetables, including asparagus, are sold cheap. Golf enthusiasts find it ideal to tee-off at the 18-hole Kalsangi golf course that is nestled amid Norfolk pines at the foot of Mt. Matutum.

TUPI town's fertile soil and cool climate set off orchards and vegetable farms. A line of fruit stands at Kablon along the national highway is a "never-miss-spot" for motorists. There, one could sample the sweetest and juiciest pineapple in the country. A snack-bar by an orchard along the national highway offer plump and delicious durian.

TAMPAKAN, tucked away from the main road, is this quaint town at the province's northeast. Global Fruits Corp. runs a banana plantation in this town. The Tampakan Mineral Resource Corp. is currently exploring in the mountain fringes of this town what could be Southeast Asia's largest copper deposit.

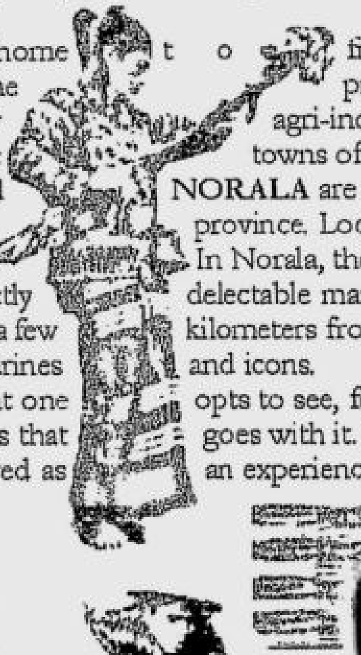
BANGA is still very much set in a rural landscape with communities dotting cornfields. The amount of corn it produces makes this small town an agriculture giant. Along the highway, boiled or grilled "anagon" is a favorite among locals and passing motorists.

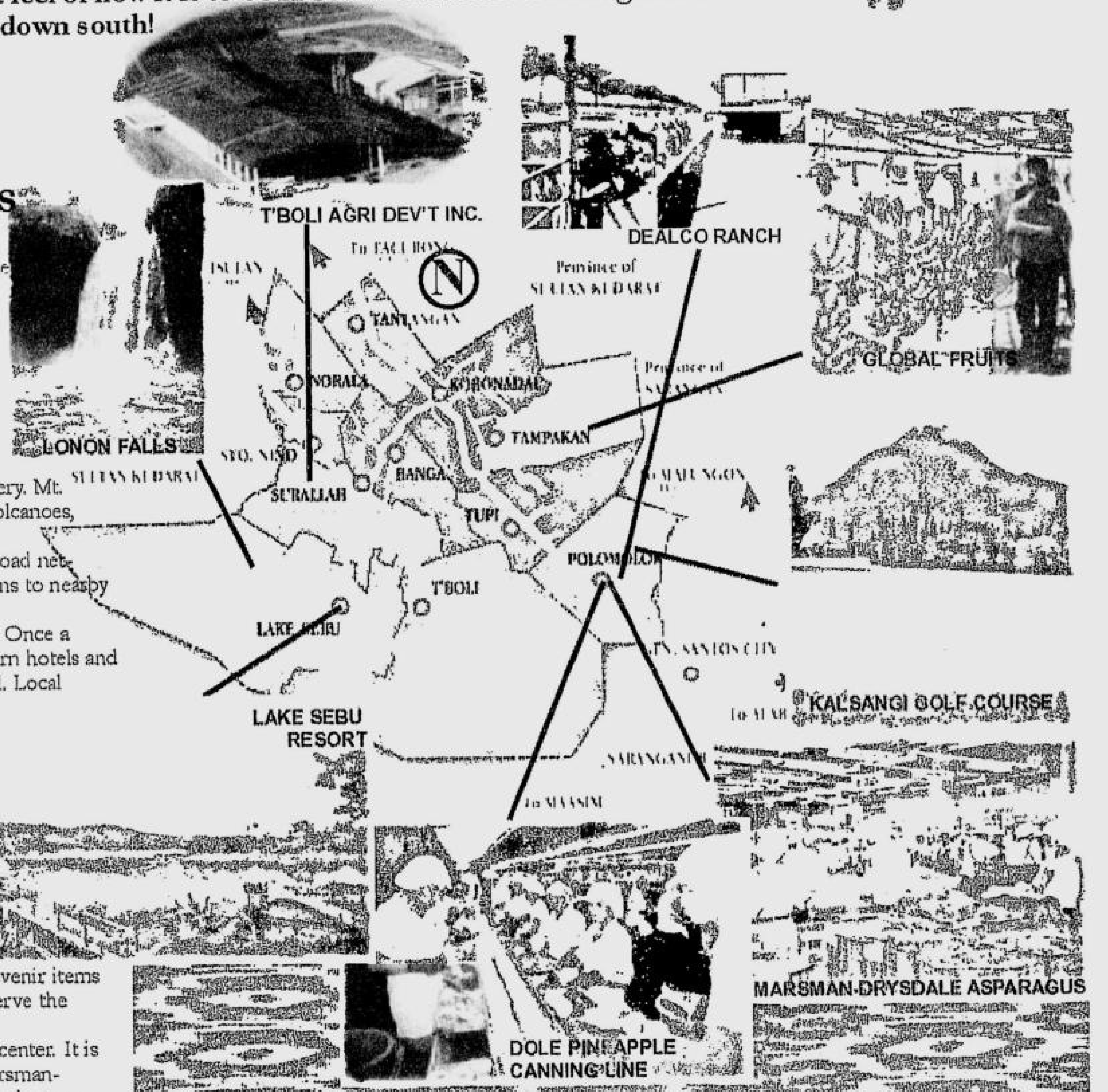
SURALLAH is home to fruit canning firm T'boli Agro-Industrial Dev't Inc. The provincial government has identified this town as another agri-industrial center. This is the jump-off point to the scenic towns of Lake Sebu and T'boli.

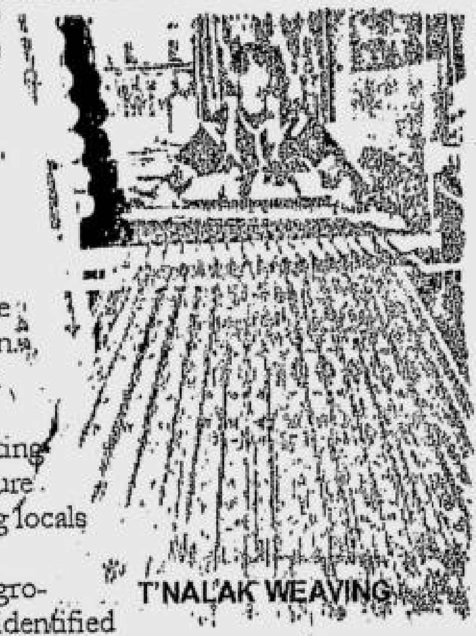
STO. NINO and NORALA are adjacent towns that are the main rice producers of the province. Locals brag in jest, it's all rice fields as far as the eyes can see. In Norala, there's a restaurant that serves "native" chicken in a distinctly delectable manner.

TANTANGAN, a few kilometers from Koronadal, is famous for ceramics, clay pots, figurines and icons.

Whatever it is that one opts to see, feel or taste in South Cotabato, there is that uniqueness that goes with it. Moments spent on this province would really be treasured as an experience of a lifetime.







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T'NALAK, a unique ethnic way of weaving the abaca cloth by the local T'boli tribe, goes beyond mere cloth weaving or art itself as people of South Cotabato takes pride of it as a symbol of unity in diversity.

T'nalak best typifies South Cotabato, a place where people of varying regional and ethnic cultures, beliefs, languages and art weave together a wonderful tapestry of aspirations and hope.

In 1998, then President Ramos declared Bey Lang Dulay, a T'boli cloth weaver from Lake Sebu, as a Living Treasure on T'nalak weaving.

The hand-made T'nalak cloth takes months to accomplish. Colorful geometric patterns are typical in T'nalak designs. The uneven yet strong abaca fibers are white, representing the people's honest intentions. The cloth's rich black and deep reddish-brown strands are dyed permanently using natural sources: red for bravery, commitment and love while black stands for the struggles and hard beaten-era of pioneers that elicited in them a strong character and perseverance. Like the people, the T'nalak is subjected to heat and beating process to achieve flexibility and better quality cloth.

Each year, South Cotabateños go out of their way for a weeklong (*July 11 to 18*) celebration of a festival characterized by events that refelcts the history, culture, richness in resources and heritage and the vast potentials of South Cotabato and its people.

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DAILY FLIGHTS from Manila take an hour-and-a-half; an hour flight from Cebu via the General Santos City airport. Philippine Airlines and Air Philippines service the route with wide-bodied jets. From the airport to Koronadal City is a 45-minute drive.

Bus or car ride from Davao City takes three hours to reach Koronadal City; two hours from Cotabato City; and seven hours by bus from Cagayan de Oro City via Tacurong City.

From Iloilo, Cebu or Zamboanga, travelers can take any boat or ferry firms serving the Manila-General Santos route. Travel takes about two days and a half from Manila; a day and a half from either Iloilo or Cebu; and less than a day from Zamboanga.

ADVT.

Talks may resume next week in KL, says Ople

STALLED peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front may resume in Kuala Lumpur as early as next week, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said yesterday.

"I expect the resumption of the talks to be announced in Malaysia," he said in a statement.

Malaysian Ambassador Mohamed Taufik confirmed "there is basis for (Ople's) statement."

The government talked about abandoning talks with the MILF after a bomb killed three and wounded 26 others earlier this month in Koronadal, South Cotabato.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo has said the bombing won't deter the government from preparing for negotiations with the MILF unless the group is proven to be involved.

Ople said "technical obstacles" to the talks resuming will be overcome—including arrest warrants against ranking MILF officials in connection with a spate of bombings in Mindanao and arrangements for a ceasefire.

Ople said Ms Macapagal told the Malaysian officials she saw merit in the idea of suspending arrest warrants for top MILF leaders—but that they would have to initiate the process through their lawyers.

However, the MILF doesn't recognize the Philippines' justice system or constitution.

The rebels and Malaysian officials have called for the lifting of the warrants—issued in connection with recent deadly bombings—saying they could keep rebel leaders away from peace talks. *AP*

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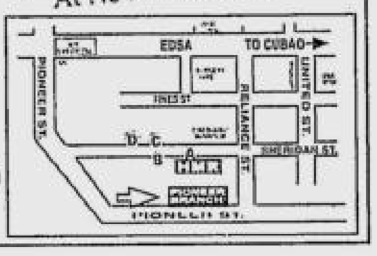

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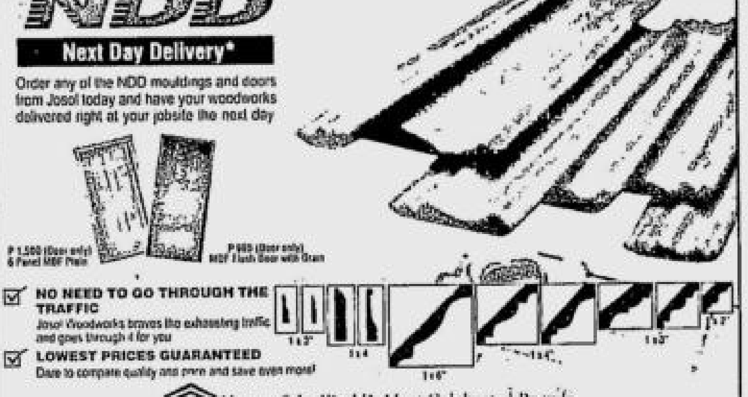

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ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 18 No. 220

OPINION

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•100% soy ink•

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
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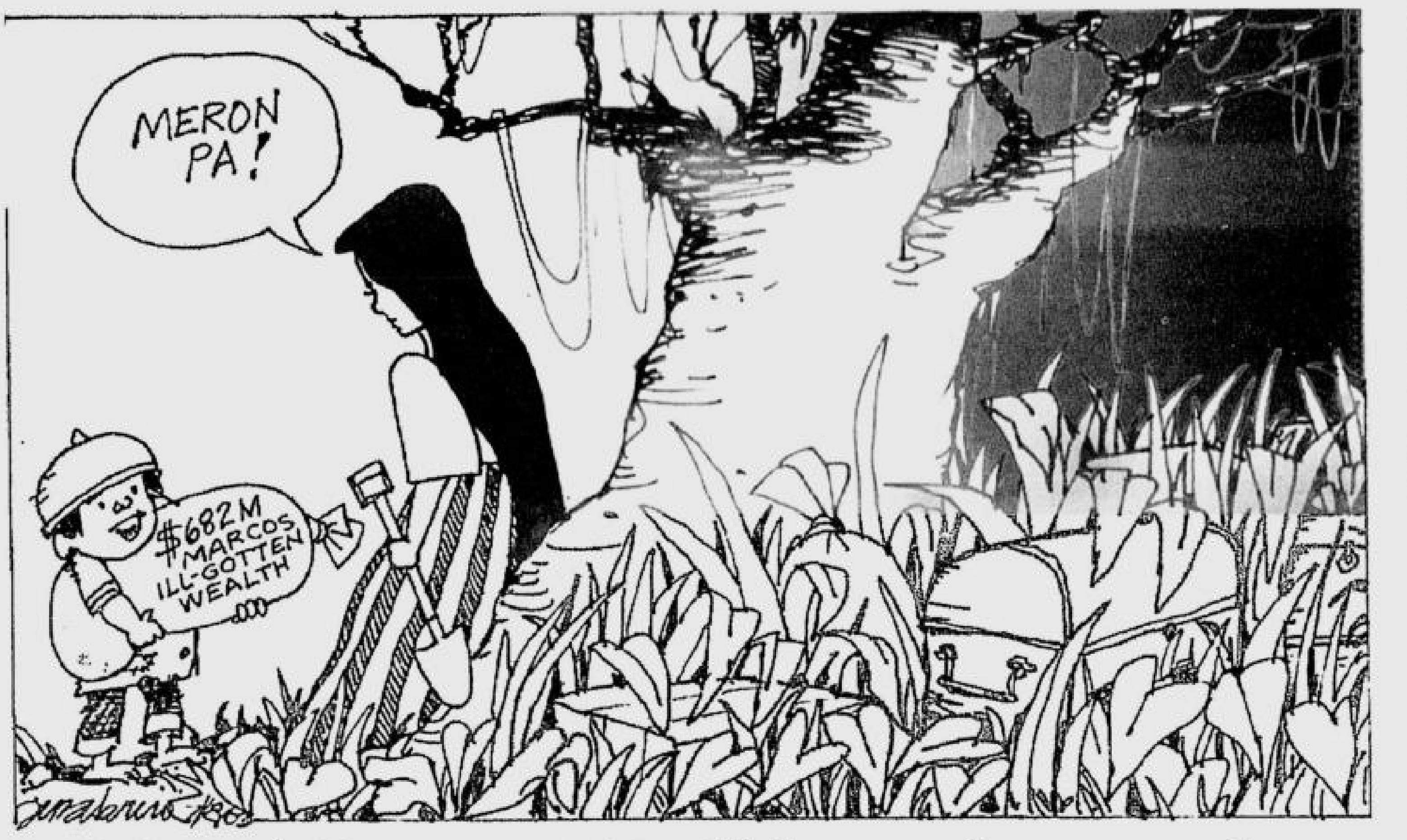

Unexplained wealth

EDITORIAL

IMELDA Marcos said 90 percent of some $682 million originally deposited in Swiss banks and now held in escrow by the Philippine National Bank was hers and all of that was acquired legally by her family. But she could not give any details about how the Marcoses came by such a fabulous fortune.

The Marcos children denied they owned the money but said they were the beneficiaries of the five foundations to whose account the Swiss deposits were credited. However neither could they explain how they got to be the beneficiaries or how the foundations amassed such huge sums of money. They were not privy to the transactions, they said, or if they knew anything at all, they could not be expected to remember since it happened a long time ago.

If so, then it only shows once more that the Marcoses are not like the rest of us. While ordinary people will always be able to tell the most expensive gifts they ever received, Imelda and her children cannot now remember how they got to inherit a fortune worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Maybe they have much, much more stashed away somewhere whose provenance they can still recall? The term "unexplained wealth" can never be applied more precisely than in this case.

To jog the memory of the forgetful Marcoses, the Supreme Court has helpfully offered a few suggestions: thievery and/or graft and corruption. In its decision ordering the forfeiture of the $680 million in favor of the government, the Court said that Imelda's admission that she was the sole beneficiary of 90 percent of those deposits only confirmed that "the foundations were established precisely to hide the money stolen by the Marcos spouses" from the government.

And just in case the Marcoses also forgot how much Ferdinand and Imelda stole, the Court gave a guide to its computation: At the time they were discovered by the government, the Marcos couple's Swiss deposits amounted to $356 million. The dictator earned only P1.5 million between 1966, when he became president, and 1986, when he was ousted in the first Edsa revolution. His wife, who served as Metro Manila governor and minister of human settlements, earned only P718,750 from 1976 to 1985. All together, their lawful income during their conjugal dictatorship amounted to no more than $304,372.

Taking it from there, we arrive at a difference of $355,695,648 between their deposits and their legal income. On this basis, the Court concluded that "the assets and properties acquired by the Marcoses were manifestly and patently disproportionate to their aggregate salaries." And by law, that constitutes sufficient proof that their wealth was ill-gotten.

Few laws could be simpler and the evidence was there for everyone to see. The wonder is that it took 17 years for the judicial system to render its verdict on this historic case.

At least now the government is starting to score some big victories in its long and arduous campaign to recover the many billions of dollars stolen from the Filipino people by the Marcoses and their cronies. Only last week, the Sandiganbayan handed over control of the United Coconut Planters Bank to the government after ruling that the majority of its shares were bought by Marcos' primus inter cronies Eduardo Cojuangco using funds extracted as a levy from millions of coconut farmers.

It's about time, too. And that's not only because these cases have languished too long in our courts, or even because those billions should come in handy as the government strains under a huge budget deficit. The decisions on these cases are timely reminders that people like the Marcoses and Cojuangco have committed serious crimes against the people and they should not be left to enjoy their loot, much less present themselves as leaders and saviors of a country they helped keep undeveloped and a people they impoverished, by their rapacity and greed.

A tested response

FOREIGN COMMENT

EVIDENTLY malaria and AIDS kill many more people than SARS.

But several months of warnings by the World Health Organization against traveling to China and Hong Kong—both of which are now off that list—is the story of a good reaction that hindered SARS from exploding across borders.

The classical and banal means was to isolate people infected by SARS and their closest relatives.

The source of SARS isn't yet well known or documented, but the preparedness has been tested and it works.

Politiken, (Copenhagen, Denmark)

Original 'Ocean's 11' still better than remake

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I CHANCED upon the two versions of "Ocean's Eleven" on Skycable on the same day last week. The original with Frank Sinatra and his Rat Pack was shown on Cinemax. Almost immediately after that, the remake with George Clooney in the Sinatra role was shown on HBO. It was a rare opportunity to compare the two versions. I have seen both in the movies but the showings being too far apart, it was hard to compare them. With the one-after-the-other showing on television, it was easier.

"Ocean's Eleven" is the story of how a group of friends robbed five gambling casinos in Las Vegas at the same time. The original was concocted by Sinatra while he and his pals in the Rat Pack, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr., were all performing at the same time in different casinos in Vegas.

Faced with long hours of boredom doing nothing during the day when there were no shows, Sinatra proposed: "Why don't we make a movie?"

So a movie they made, putting all the Rat Pack members in the cast, including Peter Lawford and Joey Bishop. They were even able to use Shirley MacLaine, also a Rat Packer, in a cameo role.

They were supported by an outstanding cast of character actors, among them Richard Conte, Henry Silva, Norman Fell, and another cameo role as one of the robbed casino owners for the famous gangster actor George Raft. The only gangsters not in the cast were Humphrey Bogart, the original Rat Pack leader, and Edward G. Robinson and James Cagney.

The original 11 of Danny Ocean in the Sinatra movie were not gangsters, however. They were veterans of World War II, paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne, all commanded by Major Ocean during the war.

The buddies had a reunion in Las Vegas, during which they planned a raid on the vaults of five casinos in one night. They didn't have to; they were not in dire financial straits. In fact, one of them (the character played by Lawford), was the lone heir to a fortune and spoiled by his rich mother. They did it as a lark, to relieve the boredom that Sinatra and his Rat Pack pals felt while waiting in Vegas.

Only one (Conte) was compelled to join the robbery. He didn't want to, but after learning from a doctor that he was dying of heart disease (this was before the era of angioplasty and heart bypass surgery) he accepted the invitation to join to provide his son with enough funds for him to finish college. He did drop dead in the middle of the heist, which led to major complications and a surprise ending.

In spite of their war background and training, there were no fireworks, no shootouts, no violence, nobody gets killed except the heart attack victim. The key to the success of the heist was merely blacking out the whole of Las Vegas for a few minutes. They bombed one of the electric towers, blacking out the whole gambling city—an often-enough occurence in the Philippines, especially in Mindanao.

The brief darkness was enough for the gang to empty the vaults and get out. However, the problem was how to get the loot out of Vegas with police checkpoints immediately set up on all roads leading out of the city. That is what the rest of the movie tries to do with a surprising result.

The blackout was also the key in the remake of "Ocean's Eleven." This time, however, the gang members were not war buddies but confirmed hoodlums. Clooney had just gotten out of prison and he recruited his cohorts based on their known abilities. There was even a Chinese acrobat whom Clooney discovered performing at one of the casinos.

Like Sinatra, Clooney was ably assisted by a talented cast: Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Andy Garcia, Elliot Gould, Julia Roberts and lesser known but equally talented character actors.

Their job in the new version was more daunting. This is now the age of computers and high-tech gizmos. The vault of the single casino they were now going to rob was underground, guarded not only by armed guards, but also by high-tech computers, TV monitors, automatic locks and elevators.

And now there were motives for robbing the casino. The casino owner (Garcia) had robbed Ocean of his wife (Roberts) while he was in prison. Ocean wanted to get even. And the financier of the caper (Gould) was a rival casino owner.

Again the problem was how to get the loot out of town once they had it. They waited 10 months to do it. But still, the movie's ending is *bitin*. Did they get away with it or not?

Because when Ocean and his reclaimed wife sped away in a car, presumably to finally get the loot, they were followed by another car with Garcia's gorillas in it.

Which of the two did I like better? I prefer the original. The remake was more slick, had more subplots and complications, but they were not enough to replace the magic of Old Blue Eyes and his Rat Pack as they went through their paces with humor and tongue in cheek. A scene that made me laugh showed Sinatra, Martin and Lawford, with Davis driving them in a truck, blacking their faces as they prepare to break into a funeral parlor. Davis was giggling.

"What are you giggling for?" they asked.

Davis replied: "I knew my color would work for me someday."

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: This is the third and final installment of this series of jokes about an old priest:

After several months, the parishioner saw the old priest in still another parish.

"Narito na pala kayo, Among."* He greeted. *"Kumusta na kayo?"

***"Eto, naghihintay na lang ng Gloria,"* replied. Then he called into the convent:**

"Gloria, nasaan na ang kape ko?"

Pool of memory

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

DON'T know if you've heard this. When are the only two times you'll see a white man following a black man? Answer: When he's chasing a burglar and when he's chasing Tiger Woods. I have a variation on that. When are the only two times you'll hear the world extolling the Filipino? Answer: When he's ousting a tyrant and when he's playing billiards.

I never really got good in the game. I first played it when I was in high school. Like most kids, I was enthralled far less by its alluring reputation than by its respectable seediness. The aura of billiards then was not what it is today. Then billiards carried all sorts of unsavory connotations. It was only one or two notches higher than the cabaret (pronounced with a sticky "t" and not with a Frenchy "ey"), which lit up by night but turned drab by day. In the daytime, the cabaret turned in the unglamorous sight of clothes hanging up to dry in a clothesline at the top of a rundown house. In the daytime, the pool hall turned in the tired sight of a sleepy and probably still inebriated janitor mopping up the mud-stained floor.

The pool hall where I grew up was right in front of the plaza. The second floor was where most of the tables were, where first-timers and amateurs drifted in. The tables were mostly frayed, the sides showing the almost obligatory burnt marks of cigarettes. Many of the balls were cracked. But who cared? It was cheap. And the feel of a cue stick in one's hands and the expectation of turning into a hustler were exhilarating. As far as I've known, the word "hustler" has always accompanied billiards. I don't know if Paul Newman's movie "The Hustler" (infinitely better than the colored sequel, "The Color of Money") had anything to do with that. I suspect the word came first, art imitating life rather than the other way around.

The room below was something else. It had only a few tables and was reserved for the aficionados. The game there wasn't rotation, where you pocketed the balls in succession from one to 15, it was carambola. I don't know what the English term, or version, of it is. It used only three balls, the object being to hit the two other balls with the cue ball. The one who did so the most number of times won the game. At least I think those were the rules.

It required immense skill to do it, and the players below were nothing if not skilled. They weren't the street crowd either. One luminary, I think, was a lawyer, another was a doctor. I don't know that their businesses flourished from their passion—they seemed to be there every night—but I don't know that they floundered either. The betting was furious, which was how the place earned its unsavory reputation as a minor den of evil: It was a gambling place. But it was wise money that went around. The peanut-crunching crowd—literally: peanut vendors abounded nearby and five centavos bought you a bagful of uric acid—was knowledgeable and could have given the current announcers in the Cardiff World Nine-Ball Championships a run for their money. They shook and nodded their heads slightly to register their dismay and approval, and had a quiet comment or two about the play. That was the air that hovered around the hall, a quietness belying the tension player and bettor felt.

Some high school chums and I slipped by there on occasion coming from the movie house, which was nearby. Before we watched the game below, we would hone our skills upstairs. My friends swiftly developed a knack for it, I didn't. I've since learned in life that aptitude normally shows in intuitiveness. I have an intuitive grasp of the architecture of words, I do not have an intuitive grasp of the geometry of balls. Perhaps that was the reason I didn't get to be a pool hustler. I thought of the science of it, working out in my mind repeatedly what angles to strike, how to hold the cue stick, and so on. My friends just, well, played. Science helps, but art boosts. I never had the same problems with chess, but that is another story.

But confronted with my lack of aptitude in a game that had James Dean, Marlon Brando and Paul Newman written on it, or more locally that had Fernando Poe Jr., Joseph Estrada and Jess Lapid written on it, I fell back on the stock conception of pool as the natural province of truants. I figured with scientific certainty that the speed at which one developed a degree of skill in pool was directly proportional to the slowness with which one developed a degree of skill in academics. Or more simply, the extent to which one became good at the game was directly proportional to the number of classes one skipped. Having nothing much to go on, I fell back on the Truancy Hypothesis. It helped my cause immeasurably that the one person who leaped ahead of our pack was a certifiable school escapee.

Bata Reyes at least is of my generation. I think Django Bustamante is a lot younger. But I imagine even Django would not have escaped the judgments that were heaped on pool in his younger days. Every time I see them these days—and I have been seeing a lot of them lately in the event in Cardiff—that is what I think about, what they went through to be where they are. I understand Reyes was a pool hall help who slept on billiard tables when he was a kid. That would have been the least of his adversities in his struggle to gain respectability in a world that held his calling to be several notches lower than that of a musician. It gladdens the heart to hear them spoken of now in awe, the words great, brilliant and genius liberally attached to their names.

Whether they win or not—and Reyes has already landed in billiards' hall of fame—they would already have won a tremendous personal victory. None of their shots will ever prove as magical.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Brinkmanship may force North Korea into talks

NEWS ANALYSIS

Jane Macartney

SINGAPORE—North Korea has the world on tenterhooks since saying it has been reprocessing weapons-grade plutonium, but bluff and brinkmanship are the more likely game amid signs it is edging toward a new round of talks with the United States.

But the game is a high-risk one, with about a million North Korean troops facing hundreds of thousands of South Korean soldiers as well as US forces under United Nations command across the world's most heavily fortified and last Cold War frontier.

The atmosphere has been electric since isolated and impoverished North Korea pulled out of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty early this year, threw out international atomic inspectors and took its nuclear plant out of mothballs.

But the situation may not be quite so charged as to herald war, experts say. It does, however, amount to the most serious crisis facing the United States in its policy toward Asia.

"My basic contention is that neither side is looking for a war," said Ralph Cossa, head of the Hawaii-based Pacific Forum CSIS think tank.

"Both parties have as their primary objective avoiding conflict on the (Korean) peninsula. They are not going to stumble accidentally into World War III." That contention is backed up by the facts. US officials said this week the signs were that Pyongyang was inching toward another round of three-way talks with China and the United States in Beijing after a flurry of Chinese-initiated diplomatic activity in Pyongyang.

North Korea has issued baleful statements to the effect that it has completed the reprocessing of 8,000 spent fuel rods into weapons-grade plutonium—enough to add half a dozen weapons to the cache of one or two Pyongyang is already suspected of having.

But few observers give much credence to those claims.

"They apparently did some reprocessing in late April but it appears that they have not yet engaged in full-scale work," said Daniel Pinkston, senior research associate at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies with the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

"I think there's an incentive to misrepresent actual facts, an intention to exaggerate their resolve to increase their bargaining leverage," he said.

Such statements are a certain way to recapture international attention to North Korea's demands for talks, its goal of international recognition and its fundamental motive that is to ensure regime survival.

"My guess is that this is part of their bluff campaign," Cossa told Reuters.

"North Korea wants to show they are able to develop their (nuclear) program further to force the United States into talks," said one Western diplomat. "Maybe that's their reasoning, but the other side doesn't see that as a good strategy." Pyongyang and reclusive leader Kim Jong-il risk overplaying their hand with statements that could alienate neighbors who retain some sympathies for the isolated country's plight.

China, Russia and South Korea all fiercely oppose the presence of nuclear arms on the Korean peninsula and such boasts by Pyongyang serve to alienate Kim's few friends and push them closer to the US circle.

"Every time North Korea inches closer to admitting that it has nuclear weapons, it makes it harder for any responsible member of the international community to argue its case," Cossa wrote recently.

As few as three options exist to solve the crisis. War—which most rule out as too costly for all sides. Doing nothing—a choice the administration of US President George W. Bush may favor since it leaves Pyongyang to issue more and more desperate statements and thus anger its few friends.

Or, thirdly, a negotiated settlement involving highly intrusive verification that would test North Korean commitment and be virtually impossible to monitor.

"This is the least worst option," said Cossa. Complete verification would be impossible, said Pinkston.

But North Korea would know that yet more breaches—as in previous agreements—would bring about the wrath not only of the United States, but also of Korea's closest ally, China.

And few expect North Korea to try to sell any fissile material it may possess. "Why would they part with it?" said Pinkston. "It is more valuable than any money you could get from a terrorist group because a security agreement with the US would be priceless." And the penalty for a sale would put an end to years of tactics aimed at regime survival. "The North Koreans understand that if they get caught selling missiles they get a slap on the wrist," said Cossa. "If they get caught selling fissile material then it's all over." Thus, a compromise, although still some time off and with many diplomatic twists and turns en route, is the most likely scenario.

"I don't believe the sky is falling," said Cossa. "If the North Korean aim is survival then at some point they are going to blink.

"They are playing brinkmanship but it is not the Saddam Hussein brinkmanship where you go right over the brink. They have an idea of how far they can go... and they understand they are out on the ledge right now." *Reuters*

'Intelligence-impaired group'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF, for some strange reason, President Macapagal-Arroyo still believes PNP Chief Hermogenes Ebdane doesn't deserve to be kicked out on his ass from Camp Crame for sheer negligence in the escape of three suspected terrorists, then he should certainly be sacked for sheer callousness and arrogance.

Seeking to put a face of bravado over a most embarrassing incident, Ebdane declared he was confident that Jemaah Islamiyah leader Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and his two companions would eventually be caught, "dead or alive." Preferably dead, he added, even if their bodies would be broken into pieces (*"magkalansag-lansag"*), as long as their faces would still be recognizable.

(Was Ebdane referring perhaps to lingering doubts about the reported fate of Abu Sayyaf top honcho Abu Sabaya, who was supposed to have been shot and drowned?)

In an interview over a morning TV show, Ebdane was reminded about three prisoners who had also escaped from the Crame jail last year. "Well," said the embattled police chief, "what's important is that those three are already dead."

Hello? Does the general truly believe that the killing—or summary execution—of escaped convicts closes the book on their cases? Can Ebdane be so arrogant as to believe that we should all just forget about the lax security in his headquarters once the fugitives are hunted down and killed?

And what about those millions of taxpayers' money being squandered on rewards for information leading to the recapture of those terrorists? Why should we be paying for the incompetence—if not the corruption and criminality—of their jailers? I suggest that the money be taken not from the national treasury but from the amount budgeted for Ebdane's retirement.

Ebdane says he's staying put because he believes he's needed to oversee the investigation into the escape of the prisoners and the re-arrest of the fugitives. What I'd like to know is how he expects us to believe that he could help round up the three missing terrorists when he couldn't even keep them in the jail where he already had them?

* * *

A FRIEND has made a list of "notable" escapees from the same supposedly secure holding cell inside the Intelligence Group compound at Camp Crame, virtually under the nose of Super Macho Cop Ebdane himself.

In 1995, Abu Sayyaf Chief Khadaffy Janjalani and aide Jovenal Bruno. In 2002, Pentagon Gang Chief Faisal Marohombsar and two Pentagon gang members. And now, convicted Jemaah Islamiyah and al-Qaida-trained bomber Fathur al-Ghozi and two Abu Sayaff terrorists Abdulmukim Edris and Omar Lasal.

Reacting to the listing, another friend commented: "I think they should rename the group 'Intelligence-impaired Group!'"

There's more than Ebdane's career, or the millions in rewards, at stake here. On the excuse of going after terrorists and their alleged sponsors, the MILF, the government has waged war against the people of Central Mindanao, killing, maiming and displacing hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians. And yet, when the state does get its hands on the most deadly and sinister leaders of terrorist groups, what does it do? It allows them to walk calmly away from their jail cells, taking their sweet time to lock their cell doors and board heavily tinted getaway vehicles.

* * *

AN ENVIRONMENTALIST friend reports that on instructions of Justice Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez, Chief State Prosecutor Jariano has been ordered not to pursue the case filed against poachers caught in Malampaya late last year. Private lawyers arguing in behalf of public interest, environmental groups were denied the opportunity to even help in the persecution.

"There was no need for Al-Ghozi to escape," says my friend. "If he waited long enough, the DOJ would have let him go as an act of goodwill."

In his view, poachers and terrorists are "guilty of the same crime," adding: "They sow death and destroy our future."

If you will remember, the poachers, who were Chinese, became diplomatic pawns when the Chinese Embassy interceded on their behalf, arguing that they should be released as a measure of "goodwill" to mark the coming visit of the Chinese head of state. This, despite the fact that there was ample evidence to convict the captured poachers, who had rare and endangered species of fish and marine life in their possession.

Our criminal justice system is indeed like a sieve. There are leaks everywhere. Criminals can worm or buy their way to freedom at every step of the way, from arresting police, to jailers, to prosecutors, all the way to judges.

* * *

WHEN will we finally wake up and realize that abusing the environment is as much a crime as kidnapping or even bombing a commuter train?

Environmentalists are often derided as "tree huggers," sentimentalists who would put nature over people. But protecting the environment from human greed or recklessness is precisely protecting people, too. For where would humans be if we should lose all sources of our food, water, shelter, fuel and clothing? Where shall we turn when we have finally poisoned the very soil upon which we stand, and the air we breathe?

By declining to pursue the case against the poachers, the government is sending the message that predatory foreigners are free to cross our borders, exploit and abuse our rapidly dwindling natural resources, break our laws and still get away with it. And if foreigners can do it, what's to prevent homegrown exploiters from doing the same? The release of the poachers is indeed a resounding slap in the face of all those who struggle to preserve the natural patrimony for the future and for our children.

Names of boundless mirth

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THE COLUMNS on names and naming generated so much e-mail I could not get myself to write the follow-up on the 1915 Bureau of Education list of Philippine Baptismal names. In 1915, baptismal names had a very wide context reaching back into the Roman Martyrology and the Catholic saints, feasts and solemnities. There were allusions to ancient Greece and Rome that would delight a historian but I don't think we can find young people today who would want to be named: Agricola, Areopagita, Aristofanes, Aristoteles, Auxilio Cleopatra, Cariton (which we associate with scavengers of *dyaryo bote*), Erasmo, Esopo, Seneca, Tecla, or Torcuato. I wouldn't want to be named after places too: America, Africa, or Asia. One look at this ancient list and you rejoice that you live in the 21st century. There is a familiar sweetbread known as "Pionono" that for some strange reason was named after Pope Pius IX. The compiler of the 1915 list also had another pope, Pioquinto or Pius V that came with an amazing feminine counterpart—Pioquinta! This reminded me of two competing beauty parlors in the 1950s, the original was named Tres Chic and the one across the street thought it could do better with Cuatro Chic. In modern times we have the place called Cooking ng Ina Mo. I have yet to validate the existence of a rival Cooking ng Ina Mo Rin." Urban anthropology can be a diverting pastime, all one needs is an open mind, observant eyes and a notebook.

One of the readers who asked not to be identified (lest people think she has nothing better to do) has been listing down taxicab names since 1999 and supplied me with some arranged by type:

"Names referring to the driver's attributes? Queer, Silent, Type, Handsome, Shy, Big Eyes, Goodboy, Poorman, Clueless, Weirdo, Wild Woman and Mr. Excitement.

"Names referring to the taxi service? Aboveboard, Legitimate, Unbeatable, Smokin', Midas Touch, Matipid, Stealth (my personal favorite), Unexpected, User Friendly and Hi-Ho Silver.

"Names meant to entice one into the taxi? UR 2 CUTE, Lukatme, Your Way, Just Call me, Ride with Us, Onward, Hernando's Hideaway, Cadilock, Taki, Kotseko, and Cocheco Tacsimo.

"Slightly creepy: Sit Beside Me, Gremlins, 12 Fingers, Teeth & Bones, Sea-Ducer and Screaming "O." Pinoy names: Inosario A. Tubil, Simeon D. Macayacyac, Boyoyong, Palaka, Love ko si Rona, Ma. Buhay and Darna.

"Names referring to how the taxi was funded? Sukiyaki, Redundancy, Ancient Rome and Inday-ing's Dream.

"Strange names: Fish-a-Holic, Oink-Oink, EK-EK, Howling Gale, and Bluish Green.

"No thanks: Butt (yes, really, this is the most recent one I saw)."

From the above one can see that taxi names are a potential subject for a doctoral dissertation, but then when studied academically we might lose the Pinoy humor that lightens our stress on the traffic-choked roads of Manila.

"Bojo" e-mailed: I had an uncle who named his children so that the first letter of their names read 'a dios todos.' So the first child was Alfredo, then Daniel, etc. He had an 11th child whom he named after himself—Elpidio. His oldest son Alfredo tried the same but for some time had only six kids so he could only spell 'a dios t.' An auntie of ours one day suggested that since it seemed difficult to complete the phrase, as Alfredo and his wife were getting on in years, they should give their all and have at least one more child and give him or her a name that starts with the letter 'a' thereby forming a famous Ilonggo phrase 'adios ta.' Ask your Ilonggo friends what the phrase means."

I have long heard about women with the surname "Bagonggahasa" but since I have not verified, this I'm waiting for proof. Jhonald Ilagan wrote about a certain "Virginia Bagonggahasa" again unverified. The rest of his e-mail though was informative:

"A few years ago, while studying for the medical board, I heard my boardmates talk about their classmate named Christmas, I smiled at the thought and couldn't believe it when they told me her surname was Bonus. Weeks after, the board results came out, and there she was, among those who passed (unfortunately, it didn't include me), Dr. Christmas Bonus. I think she has a sibling named Holiday."

"Toybee" e-mailed from Saudi:

"I was once a MedTech intern assigned in a rural Cebu town. Back then it was common to encounter names of kids such as 'Tom Cruise Duhaylungsod,' 'Jacky Chan Labadan,' 'Fernando Poe Capunay,' etc. Certainly a vast improvement over those Spanish-era saintly names of old (mine included). You would think parents of those kids were diehard movie fanatics who wanted to append their idol's screen names to their kids'. But once, while taking a blood sample from a baby girl with profusely runny nose and 'Phoebe Cates' as given name, I kidded the mother that she must be a Phoebe Cates fan. To which she replied that living in a rural barrio she seldom watched movies actually, not to mention that she could hardly afford it; she didn't know it was a movie star's name until much later. It was the midwife who attended to her when she gave birth to her baby who pinned a paper with that name on the baby's *lampin*. Needless to say, she and her husband found it unique. So the name stuck. Go figure how many more babies that a midwife christened with her own idols' fancy names. The baby's parents nevertheless were proud of it, mind you."

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

The saint I know

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

I HAVE been fortunate in life to have had two long conversations with Mother Teresa spaced 20 years apart. I got to admire her and in the end, to like her very much. I believe we became friends, and now she will be a saint on a rank with St. Teresa of Avila and St. Catherine of Siena. I will know a saint in heaven. More important, the urban poor will have their own saint. Her beatification will be on Oct. 19 in Rome. We hope it will help all those who struggle to build better cities to focus on the poor.

The first meeting was in Mother's house in Calcutta. I went to the meeting on the back of a motorcycle driven by the Indian priest in charge of social action in the archdiocese. I still remember the ride—60 kph through narrow streets packed with cars, buses, bull carts, rickshaws, porters bent double by the loads they carried, sacred cows, piles of manure, a procession for the elephant god, political rallies and trolley cars. We were lucky to arrive. I was with the Jesuits' Institute of Social Order here in Manila and I had hoped to get Mother interested in community organization among the urban poor.

Twenty years later, we met again in the same place while young sisters of her congregation practiced Gregorian chant in the chapel. By then she was an old woman, well content with life and worried more about housekeeping issues and her sisters' health than the world's great problems.

In all honesty I found her patronizing the first time we met. She listened, I think, only because the priest with me was close to the archbishop. I explained how community organizing (CO) hoped to form large democratic people's organizations to compel governments through pressure tactics of one sort or another to do what the people wanted and needed. She told me she saw no need for her to do that type of work. I said it worked in Manila, and explained what the Zoto people had done in Tondo. She had a thin, patient smile on her face. "We don't need it," she repeated.

I asked her what she would do if she wanted a building for abandoned, dying people and the city wouldn't help her. She said she would talk to the man in charge. If the man refused to give the building, she would tell him, "God wants that building."

"If he still didn't give it?" I asked.

"He will give it." Sure, the bureaucrat will give it, I thought, because he knows well that Mother is the close friend of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, not because God wants it. I'm sure Mother knew that, too. She was about 60 then, I remember her long, ashen, deeply-lined face and the steady eyes that seldom blinked. My impression was that of a strong, no-nonsense, competent woman, but not a saint. But then I hadn't seen her work.

Maybe the priest with me sensed that that was what was needed and he took me to Mother's home for abandoned, dying people near the temple of the goddess Kali. The home is much nicer now. Each patient now has a clean bed, IV tubes and all the rest. Then it was a poor, crowded emergency ward, a place of triage for the dead and dying. Horribly shrunken and suffering people lay on mats on the floor. A woman vomited on herself. Some groaned and cried in pain. There were, I would say, a hundred critically ill and dying people and only three or four young sisters and maybe the same number of volunteers trying to take care of them. They lacked facilities and medicine and were almost overwhelmed, and yet they treated each person with obvious tender love.

I remember one sister comforting an old woman covered with sores, as if the sores didn't exist and the woman were her own mother. This was Mother Teresa's work. She was the inspiration of the young people. The priest and I helped as best as we could.

What Mother did was welfare work which organizers tend to dismiss as a way of tolerating poverty, since it cares for the victims instead of solving basic problems of injustice. The love and devotion of the young people in that house of death were not tolerating anything. They were transforming. The ennobled the poor. They knew at the end of their hard lives that God loved them and would care for them. They were renewed in hope and dignity. Mother and her young followers respected the poor because they found God in them.

I realize Mother must have been amused by me. I was an American, an outsider, telling her what to do with the poor for whom she had been working with for 30 years. I think told her organizing was what the Church must do to attain justice. How could I know what God wanted the Church in Calcutta to do? Still we talked for nearly two hours. She found some good in everyone.

She wouldn't do CO, but she saw its usefulness. Later she joined a march of protest when the city cut the milk rations for children. She walked with thousands of poor people through the city's streets to protest outside the governor's house. The small figure in the white, blue-bordered habit stood out in the throng of poor people.

I met her 20 years later. She was different. Much warmer now, more like an aging grandmother than a matriarch. She had letters she wanted me to deliver to her sisters in Manila in order to save on the postage. She told me how to go to Tondo and the other places her sisters were. "You won't forget, will you?" she asked.

"No Mother, I won't."

"You know how to go to these places?"

"Yes, Mother. I had worked many years in Tondo."

She said she remembered our first meeting. I didn't think she would remember what we talked about but she did ask about my work with the poor. I was still interested in CO but saw its limitations, too. Good CO needs great faith in God or a cause and such faith is hard to find. Poor people can do wonderful things when they work together, but they remain very human. The old bad habits never disappear. I told her that. She nodded sympathetically. Had she also come to see the limitations on her work? Maybe. Maybe she had thought about what I had said. She listened patiently. She wasn't in hurry any more. When I stood up to go, she reminded me not to forget the letters.

Maybe she will be declared patron saint of the urban poor. Whether she is or is not, she offers tremendous lessons to all the government officials, planners, social scientists, funders, business people, developers, NGOs, Church people and the poor themselves who work to develop our Third World cities. The greatest of lessons is that we must focus on the poor and treat them with respect. With love, too, if we can manage that. We can then work hand in hand with the poor to build a more humane, kindly and prosperous city. The poor are the starting point.

I don't have pictures in my office of famous politicians, but I do have Mother's picture. She's holding the letters she wanted me to deliver. She didn't hand them over to me until the very end of our talk when she decided I was probably reliable enough to take them.

I think Mother Teresa will pray for all of us.

Denis Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associates.

LETTERS

Why have we not ratified the ICC?

JULY 17 is International Day of Justice. It was on this day, five years ago, that 120 states including the Philippines, voted in support of the Final Text of the Rome Statute seeking to establish the International Criminal Court.

The Philippines signed the Rome Statute of the ICC in December 2001, but until now, the Senate, not because of its own doing but that of the executive branch's, has yet to ratify it. It even seems that it is the government which is the obstacle to the ratification of the statute. The Philippine government has been urged to ratify the ICC statute not a few times. Most recent of the efforts to do so is through the 10-page paper for the ICC, the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP), and the Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND) sent to Executive Secretary Romulo to submit the instruments of ratification to the Senate.

Sad to say, instead of fast-tracking efforts for the ratification of the statute, the Philippine government has decided to take backward steps. Foreign Secretary Blas Ople has signed an executive agreement with the US on mutual non-surrender of nationals to third parties.

The decision to enter into a bilateral agreement with the United States was supposedly to spare us from the US government's wrath. The latter decided to suspend all military assistance to countries that refused to pledge to give US citizens immunity before the ICC.

However, the Philippines still remains to be at the losing end. In deciding to have an impunity agreement with the US government, the Philippine government has sacrificed something of greater importance—a venue for the prosecution of perpetrators of the gravest crimes under international law, a court that could also help put an end to the culture of impunity and prove that no person or state is indeed above the law.

When domestic courts fail to give justice, the ICC could be a court of last resort. But for countries like the Philippines, which has not ratified the statute on the ICC, not to mention the absence of an Asean regional human rights mechanism, where could its citizens seek refuge?

The International Day of Justice is a most opportune time for President Macapagal-Arroyo to withdraw from the bilateral impunity agreement it has entered into with the US government. It should not deprive its citizens of venues for redress against genocide, crimes against humanity, aggression and war crimes, such as the International Criminal Court.

—AURORA A. PARONG, M.D.,
executive director,
Task Force Detainees
of the Philippines, 45 St. Mary St.,
Cubao, Quezon City

SWS disclaims PDI 'blind item'

THE SOCIAL Weather Stations hereby informs the general public that its recent survey on voter preferences commissioned by Polistrat International for publication has no figures, either released or unreleased, which match the July 8, 2003 item in the Philippine Daily Inquirer entitled, "Roco ahead of pack if De Castro and FPJ don't run, says poll," written by Dona Z. Pazzibugan.

The said item's claim of revealing an undisclosed portion of the Polistrat-commissioned survey is false. It is another instance of the dubious journalistic practice of reporting unverified material from an anonymous source.

The public is enjoined to rely on the SWS website on www.sws.org.ph for the Polistrat survey figures released to the public on June 27, 2003. Further analysis of this survey for implications of various candidate-scenarios will be reported to the public by the SWS together with Polistrat at the annual Philippine Business Outlook conference held by the Knowledge Institute, on July 24 at the Manila Peninsula Hotel, and will be posted on the website as usual.

The SWS reiterates its warning about blind items issued on May 29, 2003, which states, among other things: "With less than 12 months left before the next election, it is again becoming common for the media to put out reports about voter-preference surveys allegedly conducted by the SWS, but which fail to identify the survey sponsor. The SWS warns the public that anonymously sourced reports are BLIND ITEMS or mere gossip. The SWS does not comment, or entertain inquiries, on blind items."

—SOCIAL WEATHER STATIONS

Our apologies.—Editors

Special permit, not safety was the issue

THIS has reference to the letter of Marina Administrator Oscar M. Sevilla (PDI, 7/12/03) "Safety above everything else," reacting to the column of Neal Cruz titled "PCG, Marina sabotaging GMA" last July 8.

As the owner of the vessel, Golden Swan, who was maligned by the misleading and derogatory allegations made by Administrator Sevilla, allow me to set the record straight.

It is not true that the vessel was unlawfully converted into a liquefied gas carrier (LGC). On the contrary, it was approved on July 16, 2001 by no less than Administrator Sevilla himself. After the approval, he refused to issue the certificate of vessel registry (CVR) recognizing the vessel as an LGC despite the ministerial nature of such an issuance. He insisted that it shall remain an LCT but can carry ammonia in bulk through his Jan. 16, 2002 decision. By virtue of this decision the PCG issued our certificate of inspection on Jan. 17, 2002 allowing Golden Swan to undertake its maiden voyage on Feb. 22, 2002 carrying ammonia in bulk.

On the same date, Administrator Sevilla issued a cease and desist order (CDO) to us for allegedly failing to secure a special permit to carry dangerous/hazardous cargoes from the PCG prior to loading/carriage. The PCG, however, in writing said that no special permit can be issued as none is required for carriage of ammonia in bulk. Realizing that the grounds he cited in stopping our operation was wrong, Administrator Sevilla then called a "public hearing" on the issue of safety on March 14 and 20, 2002 to elicit support for his unwarranted stoppage of our operations. Despite our objection and his subsequent order dated March 13, 2002 that the public hearing will not form part of the CDO proceeding, Administrator Sevilla issued a decision dated May 20, 2002 using the safety issue as a basis against us. We then filed a motion for reconsideration and asked the board, instead of the Marina management, to hear it. Despite inhibition, the administrator was present in those board hearings and misled the board that the issue was maritime safety. He even allowed the tanker association (Philpesta), not a party to the case, to argue before the board and to support his position that the vessel was unsafe and should not be allowed to operate. In fact, the board in its June 2002 meeting, directed the administrator to list down the safety deficiencies, if any, and advise the owner about them for compliance. To date, no such list has been submitted by Administrator Sevilla to the board, much less to us!

Because of these machinations and misleading information, the board finally solicited the advice of the Office of the Solicitor General. The latter, in its legal opinion dated March 7, 2003, said (1) that there is no safety issue in the CDO case and the Marina management was wrong in including it as a basis for the decision; (2) that the only issue is about the special permit violation when there was none because of the impossibility of compliance therewith; (3) that Philpesta was not a party to the case and should not have been allowed to participate in the board hearings; (4) that the board should look into the propriety of the inconsistent, contradictory and confusing actions and decisions of the Marina management in the case.

—THOMAS Y. TAN,
president,
Pheschem Industrial
Corp.

On the Al-Ghozi, ASG men escape

THE ESCAPE of Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) member Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi has given another big black eye to the Philippine National Police, not to mention President Macagapal-Arroyo's anti-terror campaign. The entire nation must be told how a notorious terrorist was able to escape from a cell inside the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame where the entire country thought Al-Ghozi was well-guarded by policemen. Not that I would like to sound paranoid here, but with Al-Ghozi's escape, we might as well expect another round of terror to jolt us all to our senses.—**Andrew of Cebu**

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

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Is this another case of incompetent handling of prisoners, a ploy, or is it "*lagay* (bribery) is my guy" that happened here? This is not unusual when we have corrupt government officials. It is widely known that anybody in this country can get away with crime so long as one has the money to pay for his freedom.

This is very scary because the terrorists can kill again. How could these prison guards allow this to happen? Do they really care? Or do they just care about their pockets? What a tragedy. People are dying because of these criminals and still they managed to escape.—**Willie Soria, 1956 Peppertree Dr., Colton, California, USA**

***

It distresses me very much as a concerned Filipino to learn that Al-Ghozi escaped from his Camp Crame prison, together with his Abu Sayyaf companions. What incompetence! What stupidity!

President Macapagal should take a leaf from the US military, which recently demoted a lieutenant general by one star due to his sexual harassment of a hapless subordinate. Now, if only the President can do the same for PNP Chief Hermogenes Ebdane, to drive home the point that the "escape" of this top terrorist is Ebdane's command responsibility.

How about it, Madame President?—**Ildefonso J. Rubrico, 10 Pontiac St., West Fairview, Quezon City**

***

Having Ebdane resign as PNP chief won't do anything worthwhile in solving the escape of Al-Ghozi and the two Abu Sayyaf men. We will still have police officials conniving with terrorists and letting them escape undetected.

Let us first purge the ranks of scalawags, let us police the ranks, and then from there we can judge if we have to ask for the resignation of Ebdane... for being incapable of holding the highest office in the police force of the nation.—**Rameses R. Torres, Lopez Jaena St., Aurora Hill, Baguio City**

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General: US faces Iraq guerrilla war

WASHINGTON/ABU GHRAIB, Iraq—The head of US forces in Iraq said on Wednesday troops faced a classic guerrilla war as a grenade attack killed a US soldier and attackers fired a surface-to-air missile at a military plane.

The latest US combat death brought the total to 147, equaling the toll in the 1991 Gulf War, and increased pressure on President George W. Bush, who is under political fire over the spiraling cost of the war and accusations that he misled Americans into the war.

Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, a Democratic presidential contender, said on Wednesday the Bush administration had "trafficked in untruth" about Iraq trying to acquire uranium, one of the justifications given for the war to oust Saddam Hussein.

Bush said in his State of the Union speech in January that Baghdad sought uranium from Africa to make nuclear weapons. It has since been learned the intelligence reports were partly based on forged documents.

In a closed Senate hearing, lawmakers questioned CIA Director George Tenet about prewar intelligence on Iraq. Tenet has accepted responsibility for the CIA approving Bush's speech.

In further violence in Iraq, the mayor of a town in a restive region west of Baghdad was shot dead along with his son, a military spokesperson said.

Central Command chief Gen. John Abizaid said American forces were now engaged in guerrilla war in Iraq and must adapt their tactics to crush an increasingly organized, cell-based resistance spearheaded by Saddam loyalists.

His comments contradicted Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who said on June 30 that it was not "anything like a guerrilla war or an organized resistance."

Abizaid told a Pentagon briefing the Iraqis "are conducting what I would describe as a classical guerrilla-type campaign against us. It's low-intensity conflict in our doctrinal terms, but it's war however you describe it.

"The level of resistance... is getting more organized and it is learning. It is adapting... And we've got to adapt to their tactics, techniques and procedures."

The US military had expected a surge of attacks this week to coincide with anniversaries linked to Saddam, the Baath Party and Iraqi nationalism.

Attacks have continued despite a crackdown by American troops in areas north of the capital, once a hotbed of Saddam loyalists.

The soldier who was killed was in a military convoy of 40 trucks driving along the highway near Abu Ghraib, 26 km west of Baghdad, when there was an explosion. A US military spokesperson in Baghdad said the convoy was ambushed with rocket-propelled grenades.

Comrades of the dead soldier said he had only been in Iraq for two weeks on his first mission in the country.

In Baghdad, attackers fired a surface-to-air missile at a US C-130 transport plane as it approached the Iraqi capital's airport, but they missed their target. It was the second such incident in two weeks, a military official said.

The US military had no information on how close the missile came to hitting the aircraft.

The Arab satellite network Al Jazeera identified the dead mayor as Ali Mohammed Nayel al-Jughaify and said he was shot as he was driving home from his office in Hadithah, about 190 km northwest of Baghdad. "Residents accuse Jughaify of cooperating with the American forces," it said.

A US spokesperson could not say if the mayor had been appointed by a US commander as is common in postwar Iraq.

Abizaid, who replaced the retiring Gen. Tommy Franks as head of Central Command earlier this month, said US troops should be prepared for yearlong deployments in Iraq, a staple of the Vietnam War but used only rarely since then.

Some US troops in Iraq have complained publicly about the uncertainty of when they are returning home. A group of soldiers aired their concerns on US television on Wednesday, speaking of poor morale and disillusionment with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. *Reuters*

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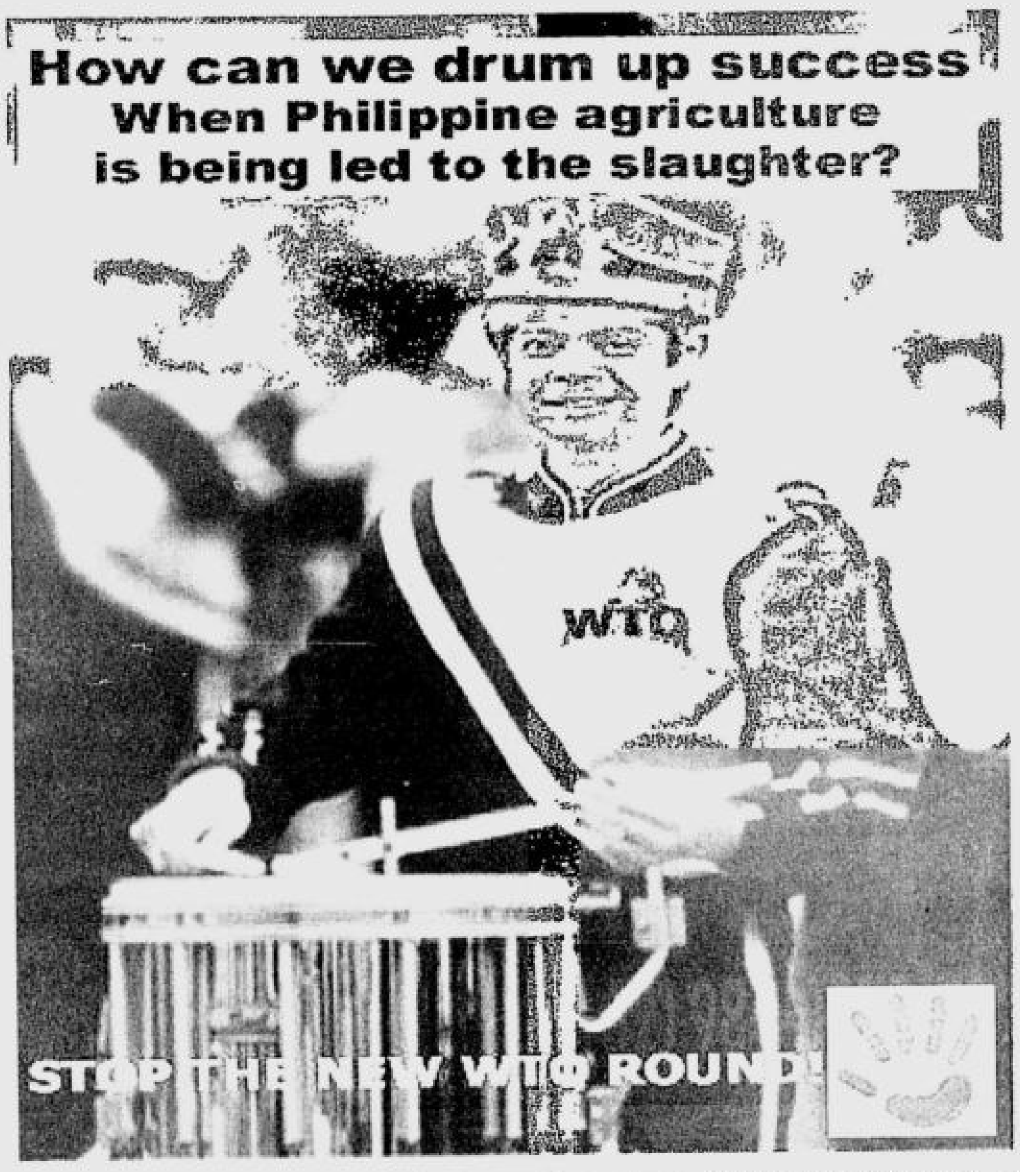
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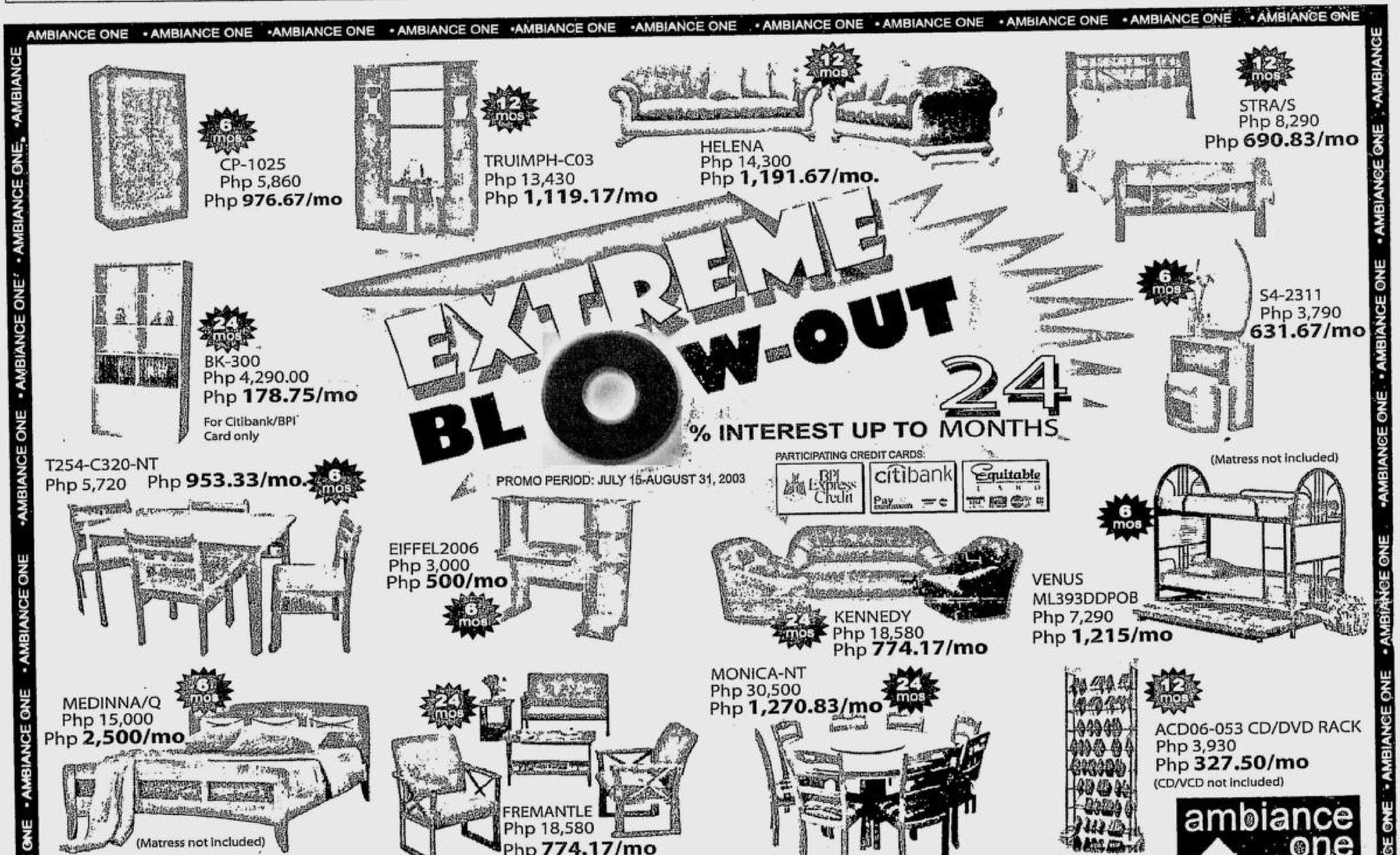
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AIDS virus found more drug-resistant

PARIS—The fight against the global AIDS pandemic received grim news Wednesday with the release of a new study showing that 10 percent of newly infected patients in Europe have developed drug-resistant strains of the disease.

The "Catch" study involved 1,633 patients across 17 European countries who had just been diagnosed as carrying the HIV virus and had not yet received any kind of treatment.

While researchers said that resistance could be expected to occur, what was worrying about the finding was that it showed that infected people continued to engage in high-risk behavior, such as sex without condoms and needle-sharing.

Results showed that 9.6 percent of patients showed resistance to at least one of the three types of anti-retroviral drugs commonly used to fight the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and AIDS, including the powerful protease inhibitors.

The study, conducted between 1996 and 2002, was released by its researchers at four-day scientific conference on AIDS hosted in Paris by the International AIDS Society.

Results indicated that people infected with the HIV virus and undergoing treatment continued to have high-risk sex or share needles, said the Dutch researcher David van de Vijver from the Utrecht University Medial Center.

They thereby passed on a disease that had already encountered anti-retroviral drugs, allowing the virus to mutate into a drug-resistant strain.

A Canadian study also showed drug-resistant strains in eight to nine percent of newly infected patients, while tests in Switzerland, France and the United States have revealed similar ranges, Van De Vijver said.

While the high-risk behavior of HIV-positive patients added a discouraging note to the fight against AIDS, which has already killed over 20 million people, scientists were not surprised by the virus's capacity to mutate.

"It happens with other diseases. It happens with tuberculosis, it happens with antibiotics," said Dutch researcher and President of the International AIDS Society, Joep Lange.

Francoise Barre-Sinoussi, professor at France's Pasteur Institute, said the studies underlined "the importance of close, careful treatment with the help of health workers to reduce the risk of resistance."

As we cannot get rid of the virus, we must prevent a particular strain from taking over, Barre-Sinoussi said, adding that the "cocktail" of anti-retroviral drugs should be modified if there were signs of resistance to the treatment.

The results should be a warning to infected patients and anyone with high-risk behavior, researchers said, stressing that there was still no cure nor vaccine for the disease.

A third generation of drugs, called fusion inhibitors, have produced promising results but they are still in the clinical trial stage and prohibitively expensive, at about $20,000 per year.

HIV is a virus that is transmitted through sexual contact, shared use of drug needles or contaminated blood transfusions, which infects cells in the immune system, then replicates and destroys their host.

It then develops into the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome or AIDS.

Today, HIV has infected more than 60 million people. Every day, the number of infected people rises by 14,000.

The International AIDS Society in Stockholm hosts a conference on the virus every two years. The meeting in Paris meeting is due to end on Wednesday. *AFP*

KATHY Eder, a California high school teacher, fed up with the Bush administration's "Most Wanted Iraqi" playing cards with Saddam Hussein and "Chemical Ali," decided to make her own deck which features members of the Bush administration. GETTY IMAGES/AFP

US soldiers complain of low morale

WASHINGTON—Fed up with being in Iraq and demoralized by their role as peacekeepers in a risky place, a group of US soldiers aired their plight on US television on Wednesday and said they had lost faith in the Army.

Told several times they would be going home only to have their hopes dashed this week, a small group of soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division in Iraq, spoke of poor morale and disillusionment with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

"If Donald Rumsfeld were here, I'd ask him for his resignation," one disgruntled soldier told ABC's "Good Morning America" show.

Asked by a reporter what his message would be for Rumsfeld, another said: "I would ask him why we are still here. I don't have any clue as to why we are still in Iraq."

About 146,000 US troops are serving amid mounting security threats in postwar Iraq. The US death toll of 147 combat deaths has now equaled the number killed in the 1991 Gulf War.

Sgt. Filipe Vega, said they had expected to return home soon after the fall of Baghdad on April 9. "We were told the fastest way back home is through Baghdad and that's what we did. Now we are still here," he complained.

The 3rd Infantry Division was the first US unit to enter Baghdad after driving through southern Iraq from Kuwait.

Sgt. Terry Gilmore described a phone call with his wife, Stacey, when he told her he would not be coming home soon.

"When I told her she started crying and I almost started crying. I just felt like my heart was broken. I could not figure out... how they could keep us here after they told us we were coming home."

Appearing on the same show, Stacey Gilmore said US troops were ill-prepared for the post-war phase. "They were told after the fighting ended they were coming home. All I know is that morale is low and they are just hanging in there, sticking through it." *Reuters*

Study: Frequent masturbation cuts cancer risk

SYDNEY—Frequent masturbation may be really good for you.

Research by Australia's Cancer Council Victoria found that the more often men ejaculate between the ages of 20 and 50, the less likely they are to suffer the disease that kills more than half a million men each year.

The survey of 1,079 prostate cancer patients and 1,259 healthy men found that those who masturbated or had sex at least once a day in their 20s were a third less likely to develop the malady.

"For men in their 50s of course that's often not achievable," Graham Giles, who led the research team, said on Thursday.

"(But) masturbation isn't bad for you. I don't believe in the blindness and hairy palms theory. Prohibitions against ejaculations are not based on science," he said.

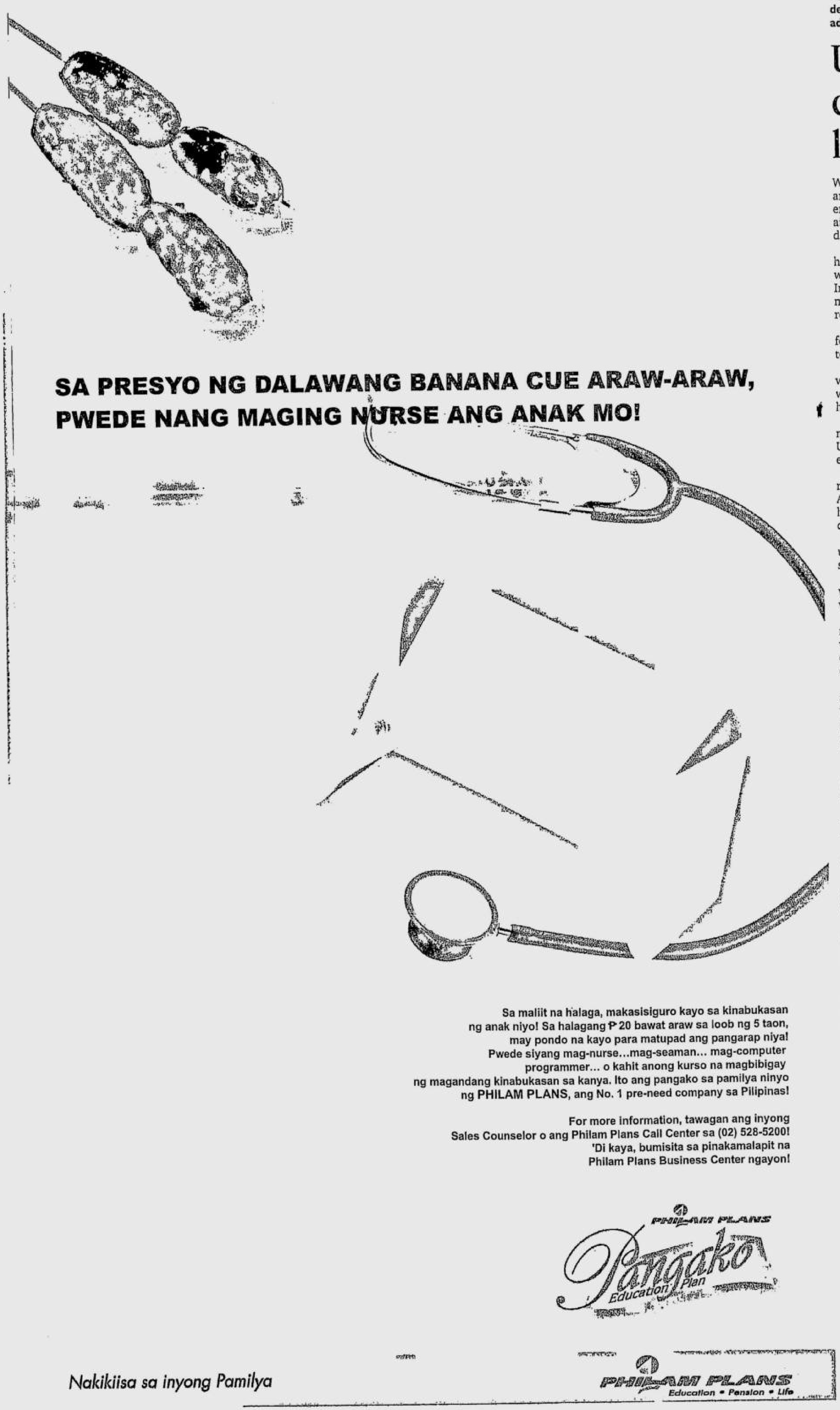
The study, conducted between 1994 and 1998 but still being analyzed, did not focus specifically on masturbation.

Nevertheless, it was the largest so far to ask participants not just about their sexual relations but also about masturbation, and to analyze the answers.

Giles said the findings correlate with previous research that showed Roman Catholic priests were 30 percent more likely to get prostate cancer, but they contradict other studies that suggested having a variety of partners or frequent sex could lift the risk.

One theory that could explain the new results is that semen may have a carcinogenic effect on the cells lining the prostatic ducts if not flushed regularly out of the pipes by ejaculations.

The research is due to be published in this weekend's British Journal of Urology International. *Reuters*



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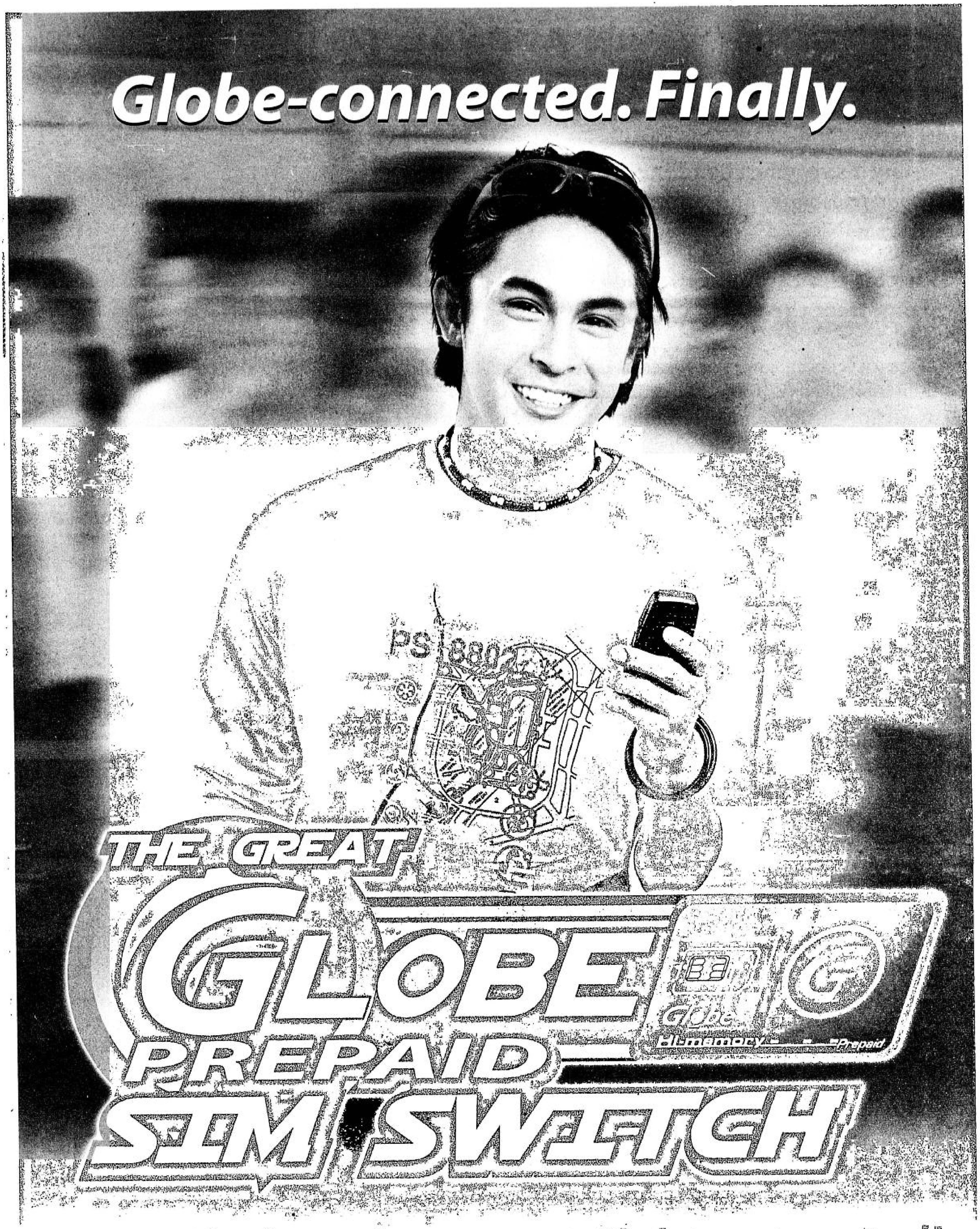

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AN APPEAL TO
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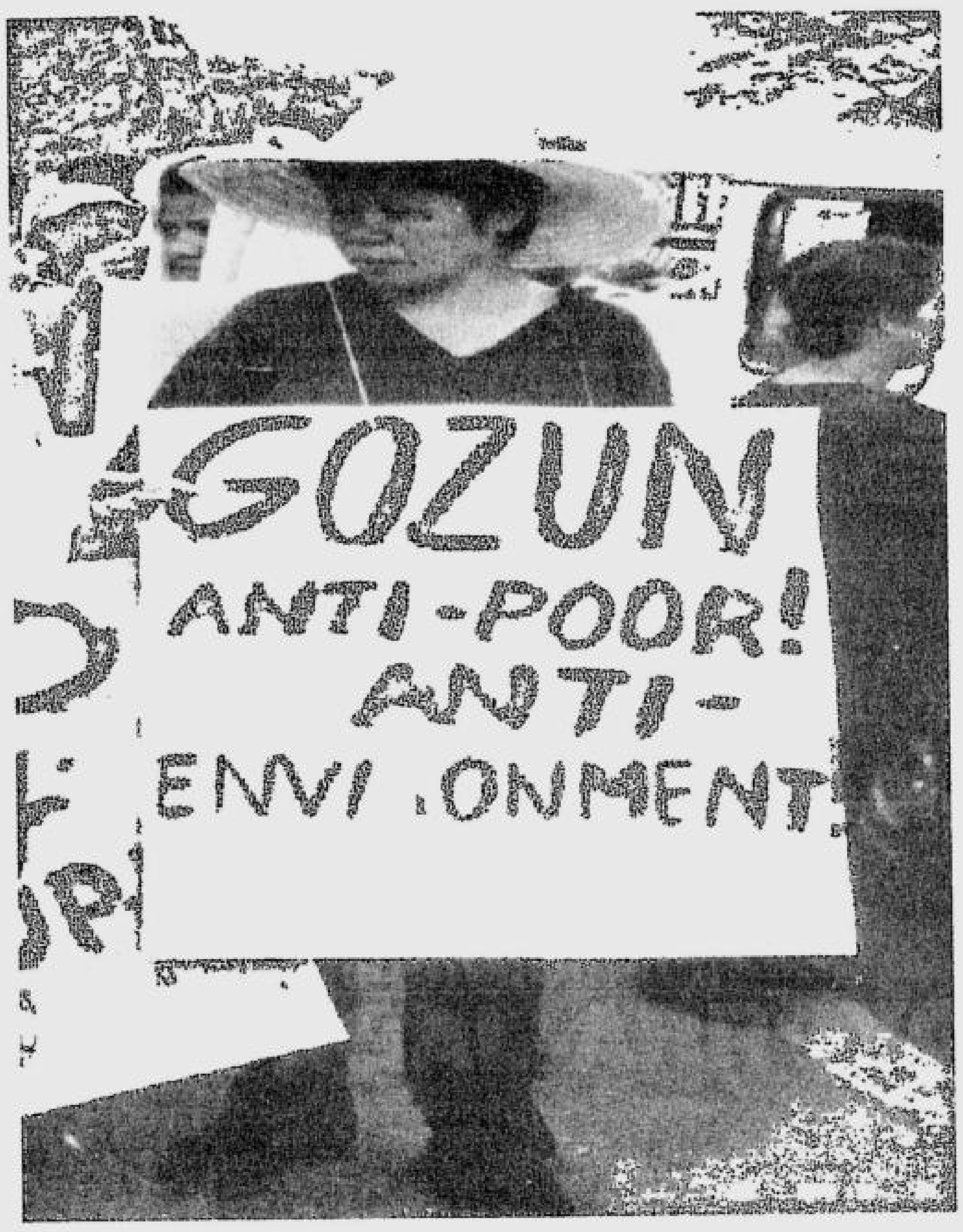
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Twenty years ago, we, fishers, can easily catch 20 kilos of fish a day. Today, the catch has dwindled to 2 kilos—barely enough to support a family.

Studies have confirmed that commercial fishing ruins our coastal fishing grounds. Their heavy destructive gears have heartlessly raked the corals, damaged the marine ecosystem, the fertile breeding grounds of fish. Over the years, our income continued to shrink. Our families and especially the children, suffer malnutrition, even brain damage that results from serious protein deficiency.

In June 2001, when then **DENR Secretary Heherson Alvarez signed DAO 17** – the DENR Administrative Order setting aside 15 kilometers of municipal coastal waters for the exclusive use of marginalized fisherfolk—we, small fishers nationwide, rejoiced for we saw **DAO 17 as a crucial step towards improving the quality of life of some 3 million small fishermen.**

Without doubt, **DAO 17 would give us back our livelihood and enable us to protect the environment** that harbours us. Unfortunately, when Secretary Elisea Gozun took over the DENR, her first move was to revoke DAO 17. Instead of asking the Department of Agriculture to adopt DAO 17 as former Secretaries Alvarez and Montemayor did, Sec. Gozun revoked it completely. **A DOJ Undersecretary's opinion does not compel Sec. Gozun to do that.** In fact a Cadiz City RTC judgement upholds DAO 17. We feel that Sec. Gozun cuddles big commercial fishers, protects her own interest since two (2) days prior to her confirmation she openly committed to a certain member of the Commission on Appointments to revoke DAO 17.

Sec. Lorenzo offers a watered-down version of DAO 17 under which small fishers will lose preferential rights over coastal areas.

We fear that government's continued callousness and indifference to our plight especially that of Sec. Elisea Gozun and Sec. Cito Lorenzo destroys an opportunity to help the poor sector to help themselves so that the nation can develop faster with justice and compassion.

Madame President, we recall your Father's legacy of giving justice to the poor. Invoking that legacy, we, the *3 million small fishers* and our families are appealing to you:

Do not drive us deeper into poverty !

Restore DAO 17 now ! Protect the environment !

Give us back our lives !!!

Fisherfolk Organizations· Katilingban sg. Magagmay nga Mangingisda sa Cauyan, Negros Occidental · Bacungan Coastal Residents Development Association Inc, Palawan ·Gugma han Maquida Bay Leguin undong han Organisasyon Samarnon ·Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda sa Calatagan ·Batanes Farmers and Fisherfolk Association · Pederasyon ng mga Mamamalakaya sa Lagunoy Gulf ·Provincial Network of Resource Managers in Sarangani ·Muslim – Christian Fisherfolk Multi-Porpuse Coop Pampangisdaan Reporma Samahan Mangingisda ng Zambales ·Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Samahan sa Kanayunan – Kilusang Mangingisda ·Katin-aran Sang Parangabuhayan sang Sur Antique Inc · Inter-island Management Council, Camarines Norte · General Santos City Fisherfolk Association · Tibiao Federation of Fisherfolk and Farmers, Antique · Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council, Aurora · Bukluran Lakas Mangingisda, Mindoro Occidental · Kahupungan sa mga Maliliit na Mangingisda, Camiguin ·Masaplod Norte Fishermen Association, Negros Oriental ·Nagkahiusang Mangignisda alang sa Kalam-buan Inc. · Lanao Fisherfolk Action Network · Visayas Network CBCRM Practitioneers, Cebu · Nagkahiusang Mangingisda sa Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur · Nagkahiusang Organisasyon ng Mangingisda sa Tubod Baroy, Lanao del Norte · Nagkakaisang Mamamayang Kostal sa Balayan, Batangas ·MFARMC, Infanta, Quezon · City Fishery and Aquatic Resource Management Council, La Union · Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-tawi Federation of Farmers and Fisherfolk Association, Jolo, Sulu · PUMALAOT, Sariaya, Quezon ·Pinalakas na Ugnayan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda ng Look-Tayabas ·Balaring Fisherfolk Organization, Capiz ·Coastal Resource Management Multipurpose Cooperative, Sorsogon · Pederasyon ng mga Mamamalakaya sa Lagunoy Gulf, Catanduanes ·MFARMC, Jabonga, Agusan del Norte· San Raca Fisherfolk Resource Management Multi-purpose Cooperative, Cebu · Danao Bay Resource Management Organization, Misamis Occidental · Tinambacan Fisherfolk Federation, Samar · Punta Aparri Fisherfolk Association, Appari, Cagayan ·Brgy. Dona Likia Fisherfolk Association, Samar · Katilingban sa Mangingisda, Maguuma Kababayen ug Kabatan-onan sa Inopacan, Leyte · Bacon Resource Management and Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Sorsogon · Pipuli Office, Misamis Occidental · Malayang Mangingisda para Magpaunlad sa Yaman ng Nayon – Kilusang Mangingisda · Pambansang Alyansa ng Maliliit na Mangingisdaay Komunidad na Mangangalaga ng Santuario at Karagatan ng Pilipinas · Pampangisdaang Reporma ng mga Samahan ng Mangingisda ng Zambales ·Lipanto Hamong Nagkahiusang Managagat, Southern Leyte · Pambansang Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda-Aniban ng Manggagawa sa Agrikultura-Kilusang Mangingisda · Progresibong Alyansa ng Mangingisda sa Pilipinas-Kilusang Mangingisda · Kapatiran ng Malayang Maliliit na Mangingisda ng Pilipinas Inc.-Kilusang Mangingisda · Zaragosa-Badian Multi-Purpose Cooperative ·Malhiao Resource Management Multi-Purpose Cooperative ·Kapunungan sa Nagkahiusang Kababaen-an · Lawaan Association for Community-Based Resource Management and Development **People's Organization/ Coalition** · Kalipunan ng Maliliit na Magniniyog ng Pilipinas (KAMMPIL) · AGAPE ·Womanhealth-Philippines· Pambansang Kilusan ng Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA) · Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC) · KALAYAAN · Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP) · Focus on the Global South · Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) · Gintong Gabay ang Layunin (GGL) · Aurora Support Group (ASG) · PEACECAMP Third Propaganda Movement **Non-Government Organization** · Center for Empowerment and Resource for Development (CERD) · CADI · Tambuyog Development Center · Kasanyangan Foundation, Davao ·SARILAYA · PhilDHRRA-National · PSLink · Philnet-RDI · Philippine Peasant Institute (PPI) · Participatory Research, Organization of Communities and ducation Towards Struggle for Self Reliance (PROCESS)· Sentro para sa Ikauunlad ng Alternatibong Teknolohiya (SIKAT) · Guiuan Development Foundation · Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) **Party List** · AKBAYANI ·Partido Manggagawa (PM) · SANLAKAS **Individual** · Representative Mario Joyo Aguja · Former Senator Wigberto Tanada · Ana Marie Nemenzo · Nicanor Perlas · Vicente Fabe · Representative J.V. Bautista · Representative Rene Magtubo · Riza Hontiveros-Baraquel · Wilson Fortaleza · Fr. Ricci Pajarillo, Columban Fathers · Atty. Mario E. Maderazo · Marie Madamba-Nunez · Dr. Flor Lacanilao

Advt.

South, North Korean troops exchange fire

SEOUL—South Korea exchanged machinegun fire with communist North Korea on Thursday in the Demilitarized Zone, the divided peninsula's heavily fortified frontier, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

The rare shooting—the last was in November 2001—took place as the United States and China searched for a way to coax North Korea to enter talks on Pyongyang's nuclear weapons aims.

A US official said the North may be ready to restart talks.

At first glance, such an incident could be seen as a precursor to heightened tensions on the world's last Cold War border. But the North has in the past raised tensions to attract attention or before climbing down to a compromise or concession.

"It could be just an accident as it was in the last shooting in 2001. The DMZ is, as always, full of conventional weapons," said Koh Yuhwan, professor at the North Korean studies department at Dongguk University in Seoul.

"If it was intentional shooting, North Korea might have wanted to keep tensions up around the Korean peninsula and try to grab the attention of South Korea and the international community."

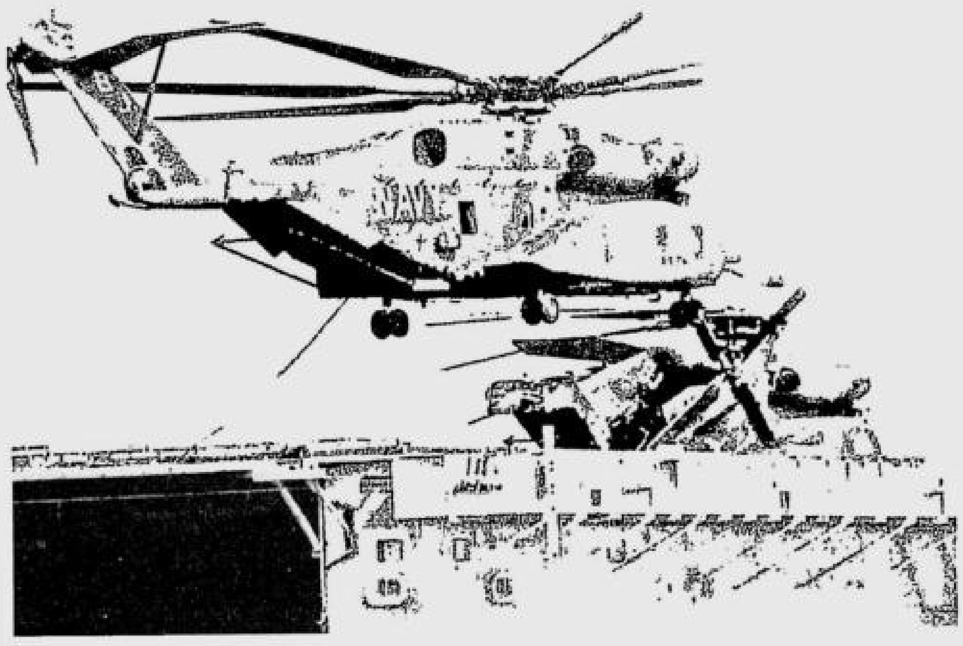
A senior State Department official said in Washington on Wednesday North Korea appeared ready to resume three-way talks with China and the United States. After an initial inconclusive three-way round in April, the North has reverted to insisting on direct talks just with the United States.

Separately, US Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security John Bolton told Japanese reporters the United States was ready to hold talks with North Korea and China if they were expanded to include South Korea and Japan later.

Col. Lee Hong-ki, spokesperson for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters it was too early to say exactly what type of machinegun had been used in the incident, which took place at 6:10 a.m. and was over very quickly.

Asked whether South Korea would protest to the North, Lee said: "We will carry out the investigation and based on the results we will determine the next step."

The US-led United Nations Command was also investigating. *Reuters*



RISKY RIDE
A US MH-53 Sea Dragon helicopter similar to this one went down in a fiery crash in the Sicilian countryside, about 16 km from the US Navy base at Sigonella, near Catania, Italy, July 16, killing all four crew members.
AP

Europe reels from heat wave

PARIS—A summer heat wave across Europe has given a festive air to packed Mediterranean beaches, turned fountains in Paris and Rome into impromptu public showers, and filled parks and woods with picnickers desperate for shade.

But it has also alarmed farmers who are seeing crops shrivel under the sun and governments who are concerned about dwindling water supplies and a rash of forest fires.

The Swiss Alps have cracked under the heat, forcing the evacuation of hikers. And London's transit authorities have promised a six-figure reward for anyone who can work out some way to air-condition the sweltering Underground subway network.

Even a storm front sweeping across Britain and France has brought little relief.

The dark clouds have caused at least five deaths in France but brought little of the much-needed rain and only a brief dip in temperatures that will return to around 30 degrees Celsius by the weekend.

In Paris, tourists could be seen standing in long lines for ice cream or sunbathing at the foot of the Eiffel Tower. Many residents have abandoned the city for their annual month-long vacation on the Riviera, where the water temperature was a bath-like 26 degrees Celsius.

On Wednesday, French authorities issued a weather warning for several regions after a night of storms that killed five people, including a 2-year-old girl and two Dutch tourists—a 39-year-old man and a 10-year-old girl—all hit by falling trees at camp sites, police said.

Seventy other people were hurt in the tempests, which were forecast to continue to Thursday.

In Switzerland, a 38-year-old woman was killed when a caravan overturned onto her in a storm in the northeastern region of Linth, local police said. The violent weather also damaged houses and cars in the region. *AFP*

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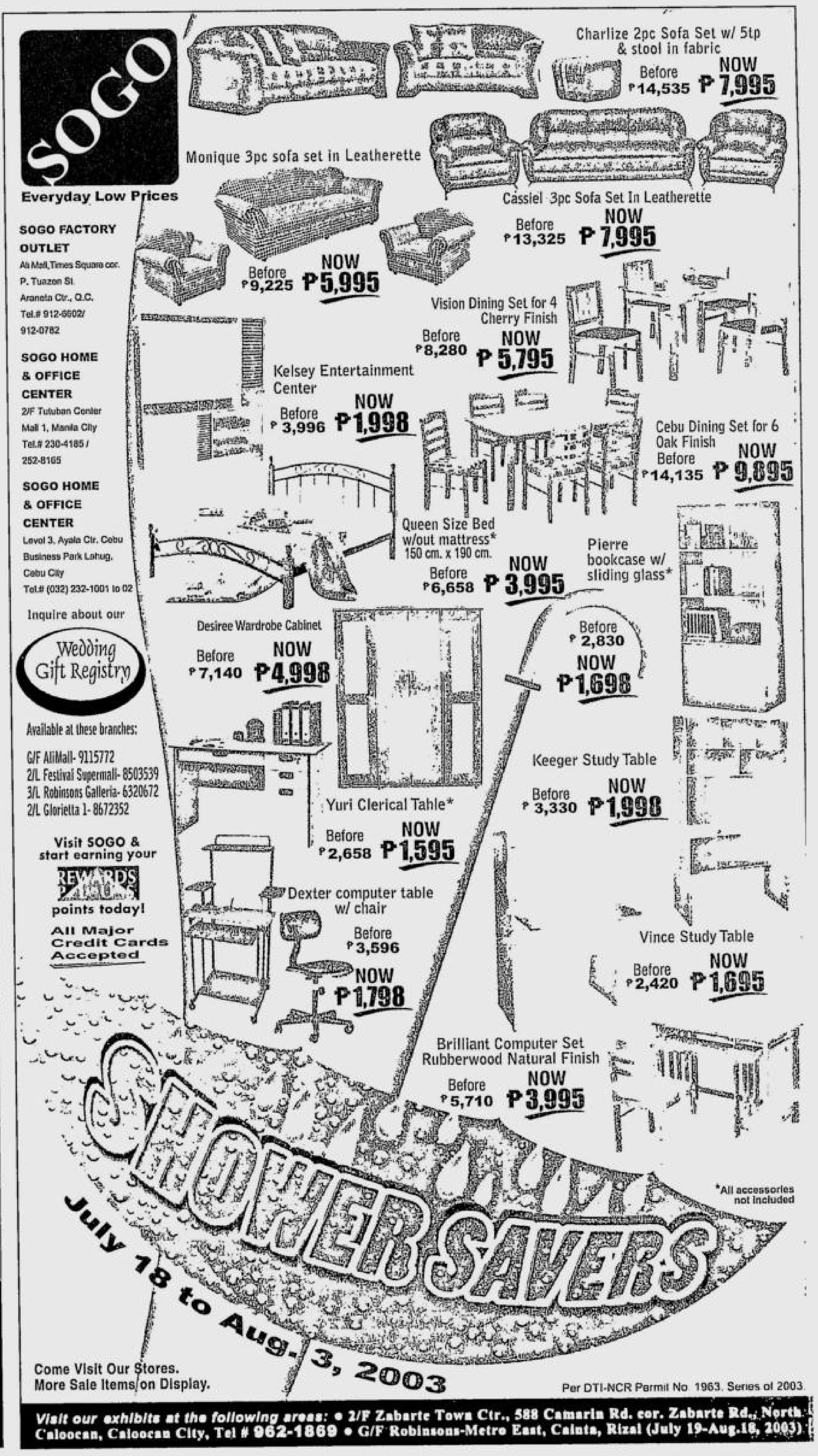

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RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

REGAINING LIFE
An unidentified man tries to pick up from where he left off after he was driven by war between government troops and Moro guerrillas away from his home in Pikit, North Cotabato. His first task: To rebuild the house he knew as home in Barangay Kabasalan.

Lapid stripped of tax power over quarrying

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—President Macapagal-Arroyo placed the regulation of the quarry industry in Pampanga and two other sand-rich provinces in Central Luzon under the direct control of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

The President's move has relegated governors, including her ally, Gov. Manuel Lapid, to a secondary role in the regulation and control of the quarry industry in their provinces.

Ms Macapagal enforced the new setup through Executive No. 224 that she signed on July 4. The order reached the MGB, a bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, on Tuesday.

In the order, the President cited the Local Government Code of 1991, Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and Executive Order 192 as basis for the mandate of the DENR over the management, control and use of natural resources.

The order said it was in the "interest of the State that said sand and gravel/lahar deposits be properly utilized for the benefit of both local and national governments and all concerned, with due regard to the environment."

Lapid admitted surprise, saying the new order came 14 months after the President issued Proclamation No. 183 in April last year.

Through that proclamation, Ms Macapagal ordered the return of the control of the multimillion-peso sand industry from the DENR's Natural Resources Development Corp. (NRDC) to the provincial government.

It was former President Joseph Estrada who ordered the NRDC to take over the industry in February 1999 or a year after Lapid was sued for graft over alleged illegal quarry collections.

Ms Macapagal's move came less than a month after the Sangguniang Panlalawigan sought a public accounting of quarry revenue from 1999 to the first six months of 2003. Lapid instead abolished the provincial quarry task force, ordering the treasurer to directly supervise the collections.

In the new order, however, the President required the creation of a task force with the MGB regional director working as "team leader" and the provincial governor as "deputy team leader."

Other functions previously and solely performed by the provincial government have been shared with the MGB.

The President ordered the task force to "immediately monitor all reported illegal mining and quarrying operations and, for this purpose set up as may be necessary checkpoints and other monitoring stations within the territorial jurisdiction of the province of Pampanga."

She authorized the task force to deputize a special contingent from the Philippine National Police and arrest illegal operators.

Ms Macapagal also authorized the task force to collect taxes and ensure that the shares of local governments are "duly remitted fully and on time." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Davao Oriental teachers 'hooked' to gambling

MATI, Davao Oriental—The provincial chief of the Department of Education (DepEd) confirmed reports of a growing number of public schoolteachers in the province who are hooked into illegal gambling.

Davao Oriental schools division superintendent Reynaldo Angelitud said the "very low" salary of teachers was playing a big role in the addiction of the mentors in the illegal numbers game, particularly a game called "last two."

"They have to make a bet in the popular illegal numbers game 'last two' in the hope they will win to augment their very low income," Angelitud said.

But he immediately added that teachers should not use their meager pay as an excuse for engaging in gambling.

Angelitud said it was immoral for teachers, whom students look up to as models, to gamble.

He said he was set to ask school principals to submit to him the names of teachers found betting.

"The school principals knew who among the teachers are engaged or hooked in illegal gambling. So I will order them to submit to me the list of teachers who are illegal gamblers so we can act on it," Angelitud said.

He vowed to put a stop to gambling among teachers.

"If they won't stop engaging in illegal gambling, we (will) charge them administratively that may result to dismissal from service," Angelitud said.

The INQUIRER learned that some teachers do not only bet in last two digits, a numbers game based on the winning lotto combination, but actually act as financiers.

A financier always rakes money even with a winning bet.

Meanwhile, a bettor putting in P10 for the combination that wins will take home P700. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Davao scholars

AT LEAST 300 scholarships had been granted to deserving students through the efforts of Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles, his office said yesterday.

In a statement, Nograles said his program, dubbed Oplan Kaalam, has alloted more than P1 million to finance the education of poor students at the University of Southeastern Phils. where most of the scholars were enrolled. The scholars come from poor families in Davao's first district, which Nograles represents.

Nograles said in partnership with the Tesda, he has also facilitated the enrollment of 50 scholars in various technological schools in Davao. He said under the Commission on Higher Education-recognized program, 10 scholars were also enrolled in other schools like Ateneo de Davao, University of Immaculate Conception, Holy Cross of Davao College and Brokenshire College of Nursing.

Cop chief dies in sleep

ILAGAN, Isabela—Chief Supt. Romulo Sales, Cagayan Valley police director, died in his sleep on Tuesday in the United States. He was 54. Senior Supt. Nelson Nario, Isabela police director, said Sales was in the US to attend the burial of his sister in Daly City, California. Sales was a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1972. He started his career as a police officer of the Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police (PC-INP). Before his stint in Cagayan Valley, he was deputy regional director for operations of the National Capital Region Police Office.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DSWD office to move

COTABATO CITY—The regional office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) here will definitely transfer to Koronadal City by September. And its regional head, Sarah Taha, cited "death threats" received by her staff as one of the major reasons for the speedy transfer. The transfer would be made despite an agreement made during a recent Regional Development Council meeting that only satellite offices will be set up in Koronadal while the government still suffers from a huge budget deficit.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Better air services

THE COUNTRY'S top airport official yesterday sought a meeting with airline officials to provide better services to travelers, especially those taking provincial flights. In a statement, Edgardo Manda, Manila International Airport Authority chief, said he called a meeting of management of various airlines to discuss ways to provide better services to air travelers. He said he heeded the advice of the Airports Council International to treat airlines as "partners in the airport business and not mere concessionaires."

'Gilas' hits land in Visayas, Bicol

THOUSANDS of passengers were stranded in the Visayas and Bicol region and two fishermen were reported missing in Sorsogon as Typhoon Gilas struck land yesterday.

Port officials said 4,506 passengers headed for areas in the Visayas and Mindanao were stranded in various ports in Bicol as sea vessels were stopped from proceeding with their trips.

Amador Rebato, supervisor of the Tabaco City Port, said also stuck at the port are 22 vehicles that were to be ferried to the Visayas and Mindanao.

Philippine Ports Authority officials said they expected the number of stranded passengers to increase.

The provincial disaster management council of Albay had warned fishermen against going out to sea.

The weather bureau said signal No. 1 remains hoisted on the Bicol region.

Hundreds of passengers were also stranded in Cebu after Coast Guard officials stopped 40 vessels 1,000 tons or lighter from going out to sea.

The vessels were bound for Bohol, Leyte, Samar, Masbate and Cebu's island towns of Bantayan and Camotes.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said at 11 a.m. yesterday, Gilas was near Tacloban City with winds of up to 65 kilometers-per-hour (kph) near the center and moving west northwest at 15 kph.

Signal No. 2 was in effect over south Samar, north Leyte including Biliran and Dinagat Island.

Signal No. 1 was over north Cebu, Bohol, Surigao del Norte, south Leyte, north Negros, Panay, Romblon, Masbate, north Samar, Sorsogon, Albay and Burias Island.

Gilas was expected to be 60 km west-northwest of Roxas City early Friday.

Cebu City officials were sent to keep watch on creeks and rivers that could overflow.

A school in Mandaue City suspended classes as floods swamped the streets leading to it.

No casualties or injuries were reported in north Cebu. A power outage hit Bantayan Island that lasted from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. *Jhunnex Napallacan and Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau and Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 431 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

VP bats for new peace initiatives

VICE PRESIDENT Teofisto Guingona yesterday called on religious leaders from various faiths to help bring peace to Mindanao.

In a press conference in Davao City, Guingona said the help of religious leaders was necessary because of the "continuing mutual mistrust that prevails between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front."

He said the role of religious leaders is just one of the four ways by which he said peace could be attained in Mindanao.

The other points, he said, are initiatives to address economic problems that plague the region, genuine autonomy for various parts of Mindanao to allow local leaders to plan and implement projects that they suit their needs, and initiatives that would encourage respect between the government and Moro guerrillas.

He said aid from other countries like Malaysia and the United States will go a long way in development for Mindanao.

"We should not look upon the aid as fish feed but teaching how to fish," he said.

"The Muslims must respect the government and the laws, while the government must respect the Muslims' tradition and culture, including the Sharia'a law."

Farmers decry sabotage of rice importation program

A GROUP of Muslim farmers are appealing to President Macapagal-Arroyo to order an investigation of efforts to sabotage her Farmers as Importers Program (FIP).

In a statement, Datu Michael Abas Kida, vice president of the National Confederation of Irrigators Association (NCIA), said the latest attempt to sabotage the program was made on July 12 when 50,000 bags of rice imported by farmers' groups from Vietnam were prevented entry at the Batangas Port in Sta. Clara town.

Abas Kida said a woman, whom he identified only by the surname Avenido, and seven armed men blocked the shipment dropping the name of the President.

He said he met with Customs chief Antonio Bernardo to present documents from the National Food Authority and Land Bank of the Philippines to prove the legality of the importation.

"We are properly documented," said Abas Kida of the shipment.

He said Avenido's interference is sign that individuals or groups are trying to sabotage the President's FIP, which was designed to benefit farmers by allowing them to import rice during lean months of local harvest.

Abas Kida said the attempts to sabotage the program are benefiting unscrupulous traders who rake in profits through high rice prices.

"While Muslim farmers have been demoralized, the consumer end is deprived of lower prices of rice in the market," he said.

According to Abas Kida, Avenido introduced herself as a staffer from the Office of the President to the broker as seven unidentified men, at gunpoint, blocked the entry of the rice shipment.

"This was not the first time that we avail ourselves of the program. Why did they have to use force on us? What could be her (Avenido) purpose?" Abas Kida asked.

Hotels, restos seen market for terraces' rice

BAGUIO CITY—Tourism officials are discussing rules that would make it mandatory for Philippine hotels and restaurants to buy rice from the Ifugao rice terraces, a senator said on Tuesday.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said authentic rice from the "Eighth Wonder of the World" that is served in meals could help popularize the rice terraces in tourism outlets.

The revenue from this venture could also subsidize the restoration of the terraces, he said.

Biazon said the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade would implement a zero tariff protocol next year, which would peril Filipino farmers, including those in Ifugao.

He said the Senate ratified GATT during the Ramos administration after former President Fidel Ramos and Speaker Jose de Venecia promised to release P32 billion to finance safety nets.

"We took them at their word, so we ratified (GATT) because I also believed that no nation can exist in a vacuum . . . But it turned out that the P32 billion (represented) the routine budgets of several departments. The money was not extra funds for safety nets," Biazon told reporters here.

As a consequence, agriculture was unable to compete with developing countries like Europe, the United States, Japan, Australia or Canada, which subsidize their farmers in violation of the GATT terms, he said.

He said he is now focusing on measures that would provide stopgap measures for agriculture, among them a focused market for the rice terraces.

He said European travel agencies continue to list the Ifugao rice terraces as their top Philippine destination, along with Pagsanjan Falls.

But feedback from Germany during a conference of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat in Berlin indicated tourist disappointment in the state of the rice terraces. Biazon is president of the Asian Regional Council of the Global Parliamentarians.

"I visited our tourism attache in Frankfurt . . . and she said tourists (found the terraces) crumbling (and in disrepair because) instead of native thatch roofs, they see rusty GI sheet roofings. You don't see anymore (proper zoning)," he said.

Biazon said his solution is to guarantee Ifugao farmers markets for their produce.

He said he first offered former Tourism Secretary Gemma Cruz-Araneta the proposal to make every tourist establishment ready markets for Ifugao terrace farmers during the Ramos administration.

"I am now discussing the same proposal with Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon," he said.

But while a market for their rice is a welcome development, Ifugao residents said the terraces are slowly being abandoned. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

GMA asked to include compensation in budget

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who sacrificed life and limb."

She did not say, however, how the money would be made available to the victims and which government agency would be authorized to disburse them. Earlier, her deputy spokesperson said the President was backing House Bill No. 4535, which seeks to award the rights victims about a third of the P36 billion.

However, two senators want the money used not for land distribution or the indemnification of the rights victims but either for the general fund or for the education sector.

The funds were frozen by the Swiss government after Ferdinand Marcos was toppled in a bloodless popular revolt in 1986, and transferred to an escrow account of the Philippine National Bank in 1998. Marcos died in exile in Hawaii in 1989.

The funds are believed to form part of a huge fortune allegedly ransacked by Marcos during his 20-year rule. Some estimates have placed the total fortune at about $10 billion, part of it stashed in bank accounts overseas.

Andaya said the inclusion of a "rights indemnification fund" must be factored in now so that the ceiling of the 2004 budget can be increased. Under the Constitution, Congress cannot approve a national budget bigger than what the executive department has proposed.

House leaders have promised to expedite the passage of a measure seeking to allow indemnification for rights victims to be paid out of the recovered Marcos assets.

"By practice, expenditures in anticipation of a revenue measure, loan or future income are included in the budget. Because money for victims is already there, then we will not be presumptuous if we include indemnification money in the budget," Andaya said.

He said that before the P36 billion could be allotted for other purposes, a portion of it must first be used to compensate victims.

He said the actual distribution to victims must have as "minimal government participation, maximum involvement of nongovernmental organizations as possible and red-tape free."

Andaya expressed confidence that proposed appropriation would not be subjected to hassles when legislators deliberated on the budget.

Blood money

"Nobody would dare tinker with blood money. On the contrary, the House will be proud to pass that landmark budget," the chair of the House appropriations committee said.

But three senators want to tinker with the "blood money." He is suggesting that the money be returned to the National Treasury.

"We are badly in need of money. The (Marcos Swiss deposits) should be treated as a general fund to be used (by) the government. It is even insufficient to meet the needs of the country," opposition Sen. John Osmeña said at a press conference.

Osmeña said he was opposed to have the P36 billion used for agrarian reform, saying that the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program has failed to deliver lands to landless farmers.

"We wasted a lot of money in that agrarian reform program. Let's not further (waste money)," he said.

When told that the law specifically mandated the government to use the money exclusively for agrarian reform purposes, he said: "Well, we can always amend the law anyway."

He believed that it would take a long time before the money could be disbursed by the Macapagal administration.

"Whoever is salivating (at the prospect of getting kickbacks out of the funds) will have to wait a little longer," Osmeña said.

But while congressmen are rushing to enact a law to allot a portion of the P36 billion to indemnify human rights victims, opposition Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta is planning to file a bill seeking to use part of the money to address the needs of the education sector.

Textbooks

Oreta wanted at least P35 million of the money to be channeled into the education sector to solve the acute shortage of classrooms, textbooks and teachers.

She said that the suggested amount could hire 49,000 new teachers and buy 24 million textbooks, 44,000 classrooms and 4.8 million desks.

"This proposal is meant to stop dead on its tracks any possible Palace maneuver to use the unexpected windfall to pay off our debts or narrow the deficit," she said.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., for his part, wanted a portion of the money to be used for the modernization of the fisheries sector.

"Agriculture Secretary Cito Lorenzo has a good model of supply chain project (involving) hundreds of thousands of vegetables and high value farming and even fish and meat."

"So we have to look at the issue of productive use of part of this Marcos wealth ... so that our farmers and consumers will also benefit," Magsaysay said. *With a report from AFP*

PCGG appeals to Imee Marcos' sense of shame

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victims could get part of the Marcos loot that the Supreme Court declared ill-gotten.

Under that law, all ill-gotten wealth recovered from the Marcoses and their cronies should go to land reform.

But the government has to comply with the conditions set by the Swiss Federal Supreme Court when it transferred the Marcos money to an escrow account in the Philippine National Bank in 1998—to indemnify the martial law victims and to come up with a final court ruling on the ownership of the money.

The PCGG noted that there was not much opposition to the Senate bill unlike the counterpart bill in the House. "The problem is in the House," Carranza said, referring to Marcos and the Ilocano bloc's maneuvers.

HB 4535 has been reported out by the committee on civil, political and human rights chaired by Rosales and is awaiting approval on second reading. SB 1877 is still at the committee level.

A group of claimants wants President Macapagal-Arroyo to certify as an urgent administration measure HB 4535.

Claimants 1081

Ramon Casiple, secretary general of Claimants 1081, said his group had asked for the help of Rigoberto "Bobbi" Tiglao, presidential chief of staff, in getting an audience with the President.

"The President herself is supportive of our position but with Bobbi there, we are more confident that we will get the President's support," Casiple said in a phone interview.

Tiglao is a member of Claimants 1081, a group which filed and won a class suit against the Marcos estate in a district court in Hawaii. The group's 3,000 members were among the 10,000 included in the final list of Marcos human rights victims submitted to the Hawaii district court.

Tiglao was charged with subversion and imprisoned from 1973 to 1974 in Camps Aguinaldo and Crame and Fort Bonifacio. Arrested for allegedly being the head of the Communist Party of the Philippines in Metro Manila, Tiglao was subjected to torture that nearly left him dead.

His late wife Racquel was also imprisoned for one-and-a-half years and suffered torture in the hands of the Marcos military.

Now, Tiglao occupies one of the most powerful positions in the Cabinet. As the President's chief of staff, Tiglao belongs to the President's innermost circle of trusted advisers. He holds office in the historic Marcos room, adjacent to Ms Macapagal's own office.

Ms Macapagal, who first appointed Tiglao as presidential spokesperson in 2001, had once said that she and Tiglao "metamorphized together" and thus he could often second-guess her on issues.

Casiple said he talked with Tiglao the other day. "Of course, he fully supports the process," the head of Claimants 1081 said.

Casiple said Claimants 1081 would like to ask the President to mention HB 4535 during her State of the Nation Address at the joint opening of Congress on July 28.

"We already know that she's backing the bill a hundred percent but it's important that she makes this position public. There are still many Marcos people in the House who can block the bill," Casiple said.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye could not say if the President would certify the compensation bill. She is expected to submit to the House and the Senate her legislative agenda during her Sona.

"The President supports the idea of allocating a certain share of this ill-gotten wealth to compensate victims of human rights abuses and this is being deliberated by the House of Representatives. We understand they are in an advanced stage of deliberations and we hope that discussions are eventually completed as soon as possible," Bunye said.

Bunye said the President merely stated in principle that she was supportive of moves to properly compensate the victims.

Casiple said Claimants 1081, together with its lawyers Robert Swift and Rod Domingo, and Akbayan Representative Rosales, met with Ms Macapagal in July 2001 to discuss with her the indemnification of the human rights victims.

Agreement in principle

Casiple said it was "agreed in principle" during the meeting that the claimants were entitled to $200 million in compensation which would come from the escrow account now valued at $682 million (about P36 billion).

He said the amount represented 30 percent of Marcos ill-gotten assets estimated at $1.98 billion at the time the class suit was won in a Hawaii district court. Casiple said the amount had grown to about $3 billion.

Casiple recalled that a $150-million compromise settlement was worked out during the Estrada administration but the Sandiganbayan rejected it.

He said the President and the claimants agreed that a two-track strategy would be pursued—passage of the bill amending the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law so that the claimants could enjoy part of the $682 million and pursuit of the execution of the settlement awarded by the Hawaii court.

Casiple said the claimants were hoping that they would finally get the compensation by Christmas or on International Human Rights Day on Dec. 10 this year.

He said claimants would be compensated according to the degree they suffered. Forced disappearances would be given the biggest compensation because many of the disappeared have not been found to this day. Victims of summary execution would be the second biggest beneficiaries, followed by victims of torture.

P1.5 million for disappeared

Casiple said that if $200 million were alloted for all the claimants, victims of forced disappearances could get at least P1.5 million each and victims of torture P700,000 each.

If that happens, Tiglao and his late wife could each get P700,000.

Casiple said Claimants 1081 invited Tiglao to speak at a national conference of human rights claimants scheduled for Aug. 2-3 along with Swift, Domingo, Rosales and other leaders.

He said the conference would be held so that the claimants could "hear directly from the horse's mouth" the prospects of finally getting the compensation.

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GMA asked to include compensation in budget

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who sacrificed life and limb."

She did not say, however, how the money would be made available to the victims and which government agency would be authorized to disburse them. Earlier, her deputy spokesperson said the President was backing House Bill No. 4535, which seeks to award the rights victims about a third of the P36 billion.

However, two senators want the money used not for land distribution or the indemnification of the rights victims but either for the general fund or for the education sector.

The funds were frozen by the Swiss government after Ferdinand Marcos was toppled in a bloodless popular revolt in 1986, and transferred to an escrow account of the Philippine National Bank in 1998. Marcos died in exile in Hawaii in 1989.

The funds are believed to form part of a huge fortune allegedly ransacked by Marcos during his 20-year rule. Some estimates have placed the total fortune at about $10 billion, part of it stashed in bank accounts overseas.

Andaya said the inclusion of a "rights indemnification fund" must be factored in now so that the ceiling of the 2004 budget can be increased. Under the Constitution, Congress cannot approve a national budget bigger than what the executive department has proposed.

House leaders have promised to expedite the passage of a measure seeking to allow indemnification for rights victims to be paid out of the recovered Marcos assets.

"By practice, expenditures in anticipation of a revenue measure, loan or future income are included in the budget. Because money for victims is already there, then we will not be presumptuous if we include indemnification money in the budget," Andaya said.

He said that before the P36 billion could be allotted for other purposes, a portion of it must first be used to compensate victims.

He said the actual distribution to victims must have as "minimal government participation, maximum involvement of nongovernmental organizations as possible and red-tape free."

Andaya expressed confidence that proposed appropriation would not be subjected to hassles when legislators deliberated on the budget.

Blood money

"Nobody would dare tinker with blood money. On the contrary, the House will be proud to pass that landmark budget," the chair of the House appropriations committee said.

But three senators want to tinker with the "blood money." He is suggesting that the money be returned to the National Treasury.

"We are badly in need of money. The (Marcos Swiss deposits) should be treated as a general fund to be used (by) the government. It is even insufficient to meet the needs of the country," opposition Sen. John Osmeña said at a press conference.

Osmeña said he was opposed to have the P36 billion used for agrarian reform, saying that the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program has failed to deliver lands to landless farmers.

"We wasted a lot of money in that agrarian reform program. Let's not further (waste money)," he said.

When told that the law specifically mandated the government to use the money exclusively for agrarian reform purposes, he said: "Well, we can always amend the law anyway."

He believed that it would take a long time before the money could be disbursed by the Macapagal administration.

"Whoever is salivating (at the prospect of getting kickbacks out of the funds) will have to wait a little longer," Osmeña said.

But while congressmen are rushing to enact a law to allot a portion of the P36 billion to indemnify human rights victims, opposition Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta is planning to file a bill seeking to use part of the money to address the needs of the education sector.

Textbooks

Oreta wanted at least P35 million of the money to be channeled into the education sector to solve the acute shortage of classrooms, textbooks and teachers.

She said that the suggested amount could hire 49,000 new teachers and buy 24 million textbooks, 44,000 classrooms and 4.8 million desks.

"This proposal is meant to stop dead on its tracks any possible Palace maneuver to use the unexpected windfall to pay off our debts or narrow the deficit," she said.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., for his part, wanted a portion of the money to be used for the modernization of the fisheries sector.

"Agriculture Secretary Cito Lorenzo has a good model of supply chain project (involving) hundreds of thousands of vegetables and high value farming and even fish and meat."

"So we have to look at the issue of productive use of part of this Marcos wealth ... so that our farmers and consumers will also benefit," Magsaysay said. *With a report from AFP*

PCGG appeals to Imee Marcos' sense of shame

From page A1

victims could get part of the Marcos loot that the Supreme Court declared ill-gotten.

Under that law, all ill-gotten wealth recovered from the Marcoses and their cronies should go to land reform.

But the government has to comply with the conditions set by the Swiss Federal Supreme Court when it transferred the Marcos money to an escrow account in the Philippine National Bank in 1998—to indemnify the martial law victims and to come up with a final court ruling on the ownership of the money.

The PCGG noted that there was not much opposition to the Senate bill unlike the counterpart bill in the House. "The problem is in the House," Carranza said, referring to Marcos and the Ilocano bloc's maneuvers.

HB 4535 has been reported out by the committee on civil, political and human rights chaired by Rosales and is awaiting approval on second reading. SB 1877 is still at the committee level.

A group of claimants wants President Macapagal-Arroyo to certify as an urgent administration measure HB 4535.

Claimants 1081

Ramon Casiple, secretary general of Claimants 1081, said his group had asked for the help of Rigoberto "Bobbi" Tiglao, presidential chief of staff, in getting an audience with the President.

"The President herself is supportive of our position but with Bobbi there, we are more confident that we will get the President's support," Casiple said in a phone interview.

Tiglao is a member of Claimants 1081, a group which filed and won a class suit against the Marcos estate in a district court in Hawaii. The group's 3,000 members were among the 10,000 included in the final list of Marcos human rights victims submitted to the Hawaii district court.

Tiglao was charged with subversion and imprisoned from 1973 to 1974 in Camps Aguinaldo and Crame and Fort Bonifacio. Arrested for allegedly being the head of the Communist Party of the Philippines in Metro Manila, Tiglao was subjected to torture that nearly left him dead.

His late wife Racquel was also imprisoned for one-and-a-half years and suffered torture in the hands of the Marcos military.

Now, Tiglao occupies one of the most powerful positions in the Cabinet. As the President's chief of staff, Tiglao belongs to the President's innermost circle of trusted advisers. He holds office in the historic Marcos room, adjacent to Ms Macapagal's own office.

Ms Macapagal, who first appointed Tiglao as presidential spokesperson in 2001, had once said that she and Tiglao "metamorphized together" and thus he could often second-guess her on issues.

Casiple said he talked with Tiglao the other day. "Of course, he fully supports the process," the head of Claimants 1081 said.

Casiple said Claimants 1081 would like to ask the President to mention HB 4535 during her State of the Nation Address at the joint opening of Congress on July 28.

"We already know that she's backing the bill a hundred percent but it's important that she makes this position public. There are still many Marcos people in the House who can block the bill," Casiple said.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye could not say if the President would certify the compensation bill. She is expected to submit to the House and the Senate her legislative agenda during her Sona.

"The President supports the idea of allocating a certain share of this ill-gotten wealth to compensate victims of human rights abuses and this is being deliberated by the House of Representatives. We understand they are in an advanced stage of deliberations and we hope that discussions are eventually completed as soon as possible," Bunye said.

Bunye said the President merely stated in principle that she was supportive of moves to properly compensate the victims.

Casiple said Claimants 1081, together with its lawyers Robert Swift and Rod Domingo, and Akbayan Representative Rosales, met with Ms Macapagal in July 2001 to discuss with her the indemnification of the human rights victims.

Agreement in principle

Casiple said it was "agreed in principle" during the meeting that the claimants were entitled to $200 million in compensation which would come from the escrow account now valued at $682 million (about P36 billion).

He said the amount represented 30 percent of Marcos ill-gotten assets estimated at $1.98 billion at the time the class suit was won in a Hawaii district court. Casiple said the amount had grown to about $3 billion.

Casiple recalled that a $150-million compromise settlement was worked out during the Estrada administration but the Sandiganbayan rejected it.

He said the President and the claimants agreed that a two-track strategy would be pursued—passage of the bill amending the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law so that the claimants could enjoy part of the $682 million and pursuit of the execution of the settlement awarded by the Hawaii court.

Casiple said the claimants were hoping that they would finally get the compensation by Christmas or on International Human Rights Day on Dec. 10 this year.

He said claimants would be compensated according to the degree they suffered. Forced disappearances would be given the biggest compensation because many of the disappeared have not been found to this day. Victims of summary execution would be the second biggest beneficiaries, followed by victims of torture.

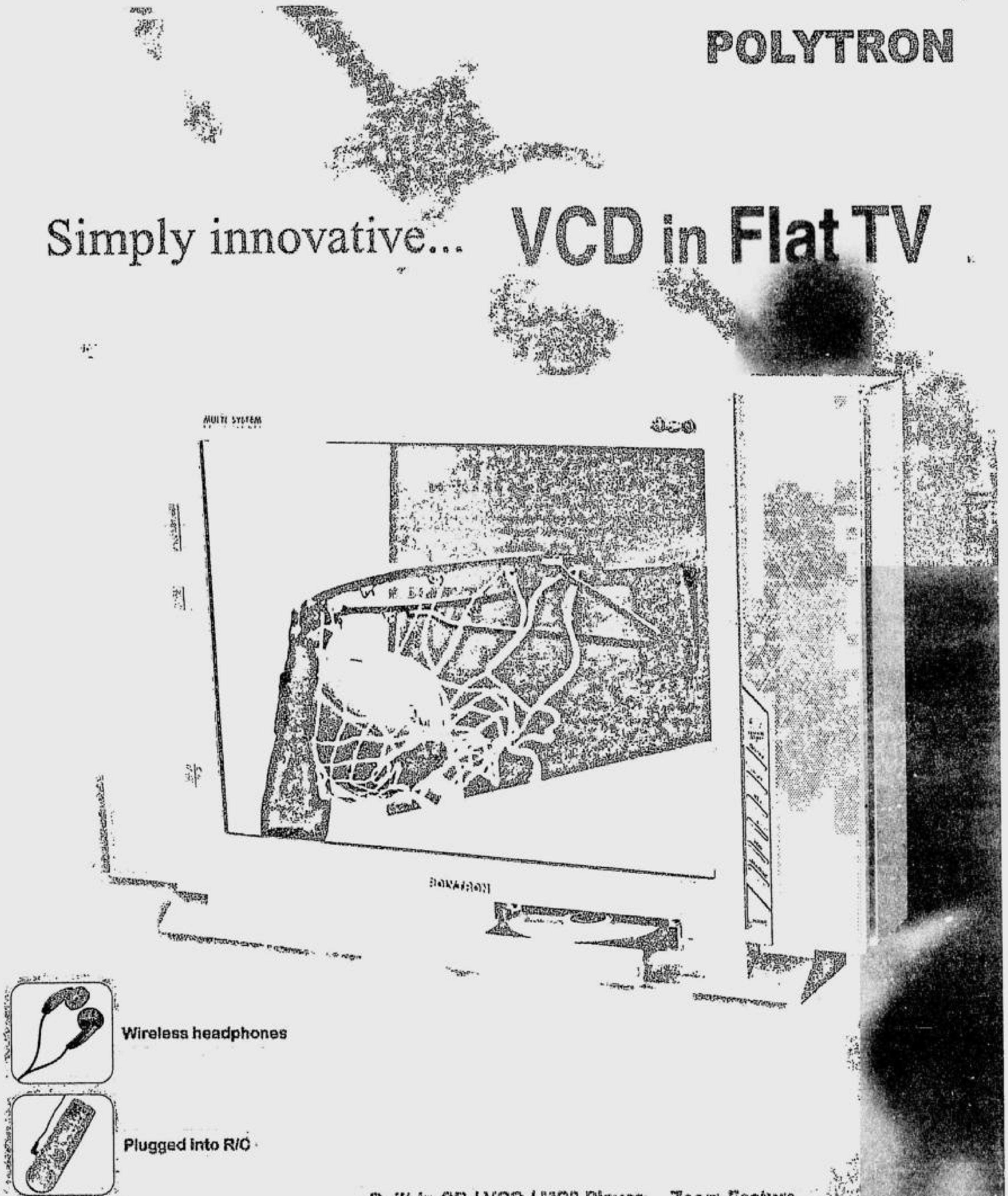
P1.5 million for disappeared

Casiple said that if $200 million were alloted for all the claimants, victims of forced disappearances could get at least P1.5 million each and victims of torture P700,000 each.

If that happens, Tiglao and his late wife could each get P700,000.

Casiple said Claimants 1081 invited Tiglao to speak at a national conference of human rights claimants scheduled for Aug. 2-3 along with Swift, Domingo, Rosales and other leaders.

He said the conference would be held so that the claimants could "hear directly from the horse's mouth" the prospects of finally getting the compensation.



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Gloria acts to quell restive young officers

From page A1

past two weeks, sparking speculations they were "plotting" something.

As a result, some of the officers "were picked up for questioning," the source said.

In combat zones

Ninety-five percent of the restless officers are assigned in the field as company commanders, leading troops in the frontlines against the Abu Sayyaf, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the New People's Army.

The Classes of '94 and '95 have sustained among the highest casualties in the field.

Many of the meetings were reportedly held in restaurants at The Fort in Makati City minutes away from one of the sources of their discontent: The continued occupation by retired officers of the military housing area at the 40-hectare Jusmag in Fort Bonifacio, which is reserved for officers in the active service. Also, many of the Jusmag residents already have lots and houses at the AFPOVAI (Armed Forces of the Philippines Officers Village Association Inc.), which is the housing area for retired officers.

The Jusmag houses particularly rile the junior officers. Once occupied by US military brass assigned here, the well-built houses are huge with enough room for even three families.

"You should see the four-wheel drive vehicles parked in front of the houses," groused a young officer.

"The officers just wanted to know why their families had to rent apartments or live in cramped military housing areas far from the city while retired colonels and generals are still living inside military camps," another officer said.

The "griping" officers also questioned the discrepancy in the hazard pay between those in the Army and Marines and those in the Air Force and the Navy.

While Army soldiers and Marines in the frontlines receive P240 as combat pay and P120 hazard pay per month, the Air Force men assigned to flying units receive an additional 50 percent of their basic pay, while the Navy personnel get additional 25 percent while at sea (loneliness pay) plus 25 percent in hazard pay.

The same issues were also raised in a manifesto received by the INQ7.net last month.

Purportedly coming from Concerned Army Officers in Sulu, the officers raised the issue of the discrepancy in pay in behalf of the "thousands of soldiers in the field."

In the statement, the officers maintained they were not plotting a coup d'etat or accusing anyone of wrongdoings.

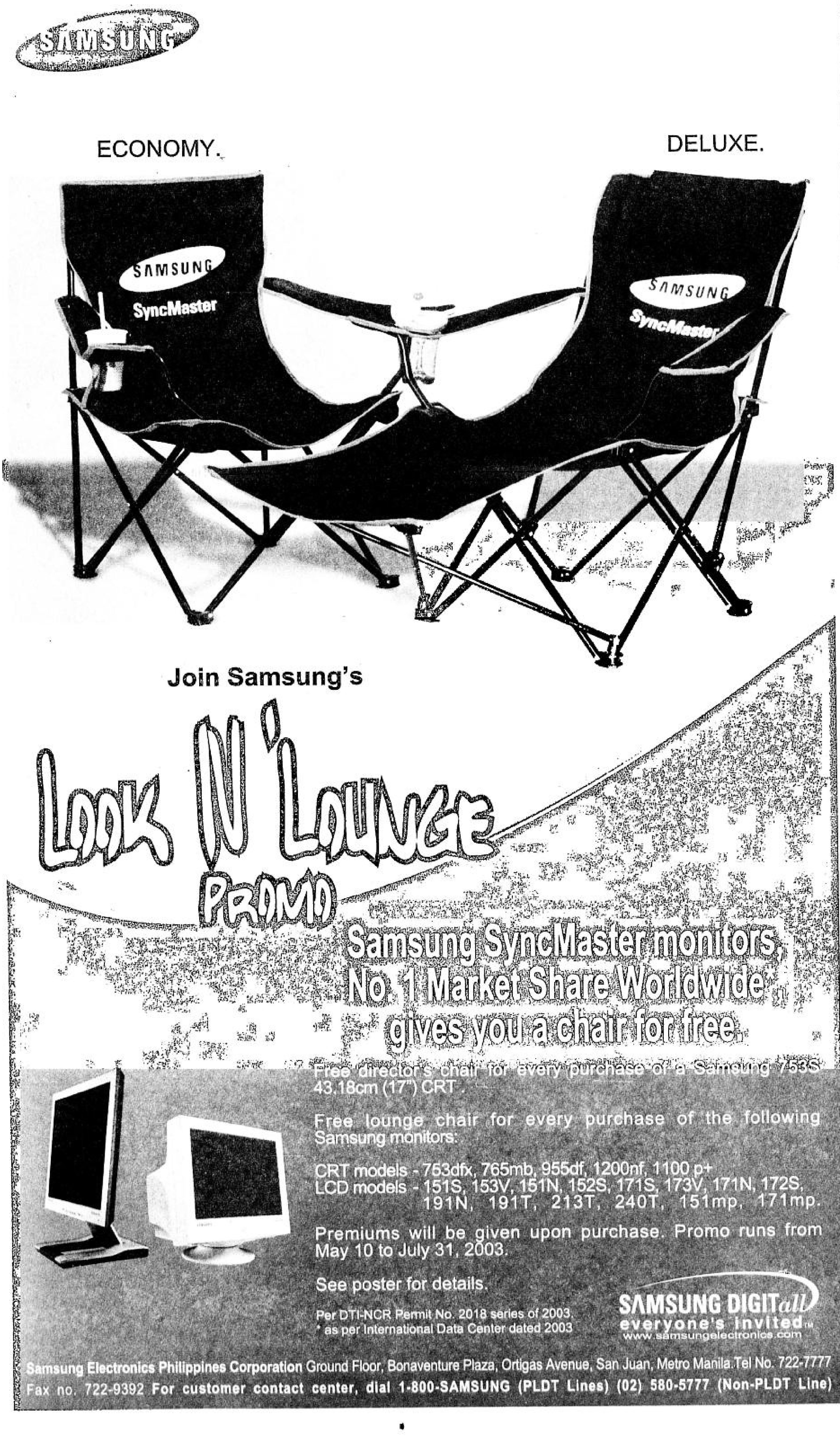
"With due courtesy to our leaders, commanders, generals, lawmakers and mentors, we would like to humbly request for clarification or any reason regarding the discrepancy or salary of the Air Force, Navy and Police, compared to the Army and Marines, and other units serving in the frontline," the manifesto said.

It was not clear, however, to whom they sent the manifesto.

Same gripes in '80s coup

Gripes about low pay, corrupt senior officers and plugged promotions also hounded the military in the '80s, which resulted in at least two coup attempts and three mutinies, including the most serious one launched against the Aquino administration in 1989.

While the plots were hatched by colonels and generals, officers with the rank of lieutenant, captain and major provided the muscle by moving "company-size" formations to attack the military camps.



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AFP revamp affects 33 generals, 24 officers

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has approved a major revamp in the Armed Forces involving 33 generals and 24 other officers, upon the recommendation of the defense department.

The revamp, the second during the watch of AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya, took effect last Monday.

A month ago, Abaya also implemented a reorganization following the retirement of some officers.

Topping the list of new appointees is Maj. Gen. Efren Abu, who was designated vice commander of the Philippine Army, a post vacated by Maj. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag who was named commander of the Southern Luzon Command last April.

Brig. Gen. Gabriel Ledesma took over Abu's post as commander of the 2nd Infantry Division, according to a three-page list of the officials affected by the revamp.

Col. Danilo Lim, a West Point graduate who was part of a rightist military group that mounted a series of failed coup attempts against the Aquino administration in the late '80s, replaced Ledesma as commander of the 1st Scout Rangers Regiment in Bulacan.

Also in the list are Brigadier Generals Antonio Romero II, assistant deputy chief of staff for comptrollership; Rafael Romero, assistant deputy chief of staff for education and training; Robert Gervacio, assistant deputy chief of staff for the reservist and retirees affairs

Gabriel Habacon, Southern Command deputy chief; Ernesto Lumang Jr., Southern Luzon Command deputy chief; Froilan Maglaya, Reserve Command chief; Exequiel Cruz, deputy inspector general; and Cardozo Luna, commandant of cadets of the Philippine Military Academy.

Other officials affected by the revamp were Brigadier Generals Alphonsus Crucero, commanding general of the Army's training and doctrine command; Romeo Tolentino, Army's chief of staff; Dante Bonifacio, Army's inspector general;

Romulo Narcida, commanding general of the Army's headquarters support group; Ferdinand Bocobo, assistant division commander (ADC) of the Army's 2ID; Alexander Aleo, ADC of the Army's 1ID; Ricardo Nobleza, ADC of the Army's 4ID;

Antonio Seville, ADC of the Army's 6ID; Jacinto Cordero Jr., ADC of the Army's 7ID; Eusebio Ramos, ADC of the Army's 8ID; Benito Ramos, deputy commander of Army's Southcom; John Bolhayon, commanding general of Army's 9th Brigade

Raul Perez, commander of the Air Force's Air Education and Training Command; Segundo Dimapilis, wing commander of the 355th Aviation Eng'g Wing; Vladimir delos Trino, wing commander of 1st Tactical Operation Wing

Pedro Ike Inserto, vice commander of the Air Force's tactical operation command, and Claudio Estalilla, wing commander of the 3rd Tactical Operation Wing.

Commodores Quirico Evangelista Jr., commander of the Navy's Naval Education and Training Command; Amado Sanglay, commander of the Naval Forces North; Normando Naval, commander of the Naval Base Command; Alvin Urbi, Navy's inspector general and Alfredo Abueg Jr., deputy commander of the Philippine Fleet.

The rest were colonels and captains.

GMA warns …

From page A1

man at the PNP, is not bothered. "It's OK. We serve at the pleasure of the President," he told the INQUIRER.

Gil also said: "We really need a strong leadership in the PNP. Based on my observation, policemen are divided. They lack focus."

He described this purported division as officers loyal to politicians on one side and those loyal to their superiors in the police force on the other.

"It's time we restored the unity and interest of the PNP," he said.

While Gil had a mouthful to say, the PNP's No. 2 man was tight-lipped.

"I'm not the right person to ask," Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, deputy chief for administration, said in response to a question from the INQUIRER on the possible revamp.

Aglipay has been distancing himself from the controversy over Al-Ghozi's escape. He has been focusing on his job as chief of the PNP's task force against illegal drugs.

Ms Macapagal said it was probable that corruption had something to do with the escape of no less than five prominent detainees from Camp Crame since last year. Three of the escapes occurred under Ebdane's watch.

"I acknowledge the serious problem of corruption in the police organization and I am making no excuses for it. We must face the truth and do something about it," she said.

"Let us not lean on the argument that this is an endemic or perennial issue, or that only a few bad eggs are involved. The people are tired of these worn-out explanations," she added.

The President said she was forming a special investigating body to look into the escape of Al-Ghozi, who is believed to be a senior operative of the Jemaah Islamiya terror group in Southeast Asia. *(See story on Page A1.)*

"We will get to the root of this case no matter who gets hurt," she said. *With a report from AFP*

Ex-detainee may have helped in escape

From page A1

by pulling it slightly toward the hinge, the Crame source said. And with a short bolt that joined the gate to the other side of the wall, the simple mechanism allowed the inmates to walk to freedom, he said.

By pulling the gate back toward the hinge, one could ease its bolt back into the hole in the wall, the source added. "It's as simple as that. No need for a key."

Top police officials, including Matillano, were reportedly surprised when ex-detainee Abu Ali showed them the trick during inspection Wednesday morning.

Matillano and his men are set to reenact the escape at 9 a.m. today.

It was not clear if Ali, who was arrested in 2002 for allegedly trying to procure explosives from Cebu, was also the one who told the fugitives about the trick.

But investigators are sure Ali provided Al-Ghozi et al. "all the information they needed" for the escape.

"He played a big role," Matillano told reporters. "It appears now that he was all the while providing all the information the detainees were asking."

Ali was placed under the custody of Senior Supt. Romeo Ricardo, IG officer in charge, and would soon be charged criminally, Matillano said.

About two weeks before the escape, Al-Ghozi, Edris and Lasal had asked him how they could bolt jail, investigation showed.

"He was asked how they could leave Camp Crame," Matillano said. "Ali said they would just have to walk down the hallway going to the ground floor. He warned about the guard at the main gate. He said they would need an escape vehicle."

Matillano said it was possible that Ali even arranged for the fugitives' escape vehicle.

Ali, he said, was the second person detainee Mark Gumbahale informed about the escape. The first was a janitor named Amor.

Probe set

A still-furious President vowed to undo the damage caused by the escape. "We will get to the root of this case no matter who gets hurt," Ms Macapagal said.

She named former Ambassador Sedfrey Ordoñez as head of the independent fact-finding commission that would investigate the escape.

Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong would be among the members of the commission representing the government, Bunye said.

A sign of her displeasure with the PNP was the inclusion of the National Bureau of Investigation in the probe.

Datumanong said the fact-finding would not spare anyone, including Ebdane, for his "command responsibility."

"Everything has to be looked into (with) no reservation whatsoever. Even if the investigators themselves are hurt, let it be if that will be the case," Datumanong said in a briefing.

"Everything has to be done in order to get to the bottom of what has happened," he added.

Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the President was not told about the escape until hours after.

"I'm just saying that she was in Merville (in Parañaque City), at a little past lunchtime and she was informed at that point," about the escape of Indonesian Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and two others on Monday.

Bunye said members of a Cabinet security grouping were only told of the escape as they met on another matter at 3 p.m.—or five hours after the discovery of the jailbreak.

Asked if that were not sufficient reason to fire Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, Bunye said, "We're not ruling that out."

"We're not ruling out high-level changes," he said. "The President will decide with the national interest" in mind.

Datumanong said the President called him up on Wednesday to tell him he might be a member of the fact-finding body.

When told that Malacañang had announced his appointment to the media and that the body was given 30 days to finish its inquiry, Datumanong said he was "honored" and would do his best to finish the investigation in 30 days.

"I think many things can be done in a period of 30 days. If we can do it in one week, we'll do it," Datumanong said.

Shoot to kill?

Datumanong also shot down Ebdane's shoot-to-kill order against the escaped terrorists.

Al-Ghozi should be captured alive so that he can explain how he escaped, the secretary said.

"We'll, that is the order of the PNP (but) we hope to recover him alive," he said.

"One thing is to have him again alive so that he can tell his story. But if we find him in any other condition, we'll still get him," Datumanong said.

Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida said the police should also strictly follow the rules on engagement, which prohibit shooting the suspect unless there is a credible threat against the apprehending officer.

"We have rules in engagement and you cannot just shoot a person. There must be a threat to your life and there must be reasonable force employed, Calida said.

He explained that under the "normal rules of engagement," an arresting officer may apply "reasonable force" necessary to capture the suspect.

He described Ebdane's shoot-to-kill order as "exuberance" on the part of the PNP chief. It should be viewed "in the light of jurisprudence and the rules."

Calida said the NBI would help in the investigation "under the guidance" of Datumanong.

"The NBI is the investigative arm of DOJ. Just like what we did in Task Force Mindoro, we will also utilize the NBI to do the legwork so to speak, the fact-finding aspect, under the guidance of Secretary of Justice," Calida said.

Task Force Mindoro was created by the President to investigate the killings of two human rights workers in Oriental Mindoro in April.

Calida also said the trial of Al-Ghozi would not push through. He said Al-Ghozi could not be tried in absentia because he had not been arraigned at the Manila Regional Trial Court.

Al-Ghozi's arraignment was scheduled for July 21 but he escaped on Monday.

"He could not be tried in absentia because the court has not acquired jurisdiction over his person," Calida said.

Al-Ghozi faces charges of multiple murder, multiple frustrated murder, and multiple attempted murder for the Rizal Day LRT bombing in 2000.

Datumanong said he was confident the government would eventually win its case against Al-Ghozi.

"The government has enough evidence to convict the accused," Datumanong said.

Witnesses secured

The DOJ has also secured the witnesses and prosecutor in the Rizal Day bombings.

Calida said the two witnesses—a security guard and a woman passenger of the Light Rail Transit train that was bombed on Dec 30, 2000—were now under tight guard.

"Naturally, they were probably disappointed but the PNP is doing everything it can to capture the escapee," said Calida.

He would not divulge if the witnesses are in the government's Witness Protection Program but added that "they are safe."

He said State Prosecutor Peter Ong, who is handling the Rizal Day bombing case, was granted additional security details after he asked for it.

Calida also said that the security at the DOJ office itself was heightened.

"We've raised the alert level at the DOJ from blue to red. We've directed the guards to closely watch the gates (of the DOJ compound)," Calida said.

Meanwhile, a radio caller to a Radio Mindanao Network program accused PNP Deputy Director General Virtus Gil of masterminding the escape, allegedly in exchange for $10 million. But Gil, the country's second-highest police official and a rumored replacement for Ebdane, brushed off the allegation.

A man who identified himself as Solaiman claimed he was in Jakarta and that his group was holding Al-Ghozi, the most senior Jemaah Islamiya member to be jailed in Southeast Asia. *With reports from Juliet Javellana and AFP*

Indonesians, Moro rebels join hunt

From page A1

would be easier for Al-Ghozi to slip to Indonesia from Mindanao via the so-called southern backdoor.

Ghazali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, would not say who saw Al-Ghozi or the circumstances behind the sighting of the fugitive.

But Jaafar confirmed that the MILF had several camps in Lanao del Norte.

Jaafar told Radio dxMS here that the MILF had ordered its field commanders to find Al-Ghozi if reports turn out to be true and arrest him.

"If Al-Ghozi or any of his co-escapees are found near MILF camps and the guerrillas have all the opportunity to arrest them, we will do so," he said.

Jaafar said the MILF was helping the government in bagging Al-Ghozi, a confessed ranking operative of the Jemaah Islamiya, because it wanted the peace talks to go forward.

Besides, he said, the rebel group also detested terrorism.

"If we could arrest Al-Ghozi and his companions, then we will hand him over to the government to prove we have no links with international terrorist groups," Jaafar told the INQUIRER.

Defense coordination

The Department of National Defense is coordinating with its counterpart in Indonesia to verify claims that Al-Ghozi had escaped into that country, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said yesterday.

"We're now checking with our counterparts in Jakarta if there's truth to that report (on the radio) that the bomber was in the Indonesian capital. We're also checking the involvement of the group Al Rahman in the escape of Al-Ghozi," Reyes said in a statement.

He was quick to add that unless there's an official report about Al-Ghozi's escape to Jakarta, such reports were "pure speculations." He issued the statement after he was asked about it by Radio Mindanao Network yesterday.

Manila International Airport Authority General Manager Edgardo Manda yesterday ordered a strict check on private flights throughout the country to prevent Al-Ghozi's escape.

Manda told reporters that airport personnel in big-time commercial flights, whether domestic or international, were scrutinizing each passenger and demanding identification cards.

The MIAA security personnel, as well as the national police's aviation security command and the immigration agents, will be inspecting each flight classified under general aviation.

The classification includes jets and smaller planes used in private, chartered and test flights as well as helicopters.

On the day Al-Ghozi escaped, Manda said there was only one private flight at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, involving a lone pilot on a flight test who returned to the airport after the test was finished.

Even if Al-Ghozi were a master of disguise, Manda added, it would be hard for the suspected terrorist to forge IDs and papers to back up his assumed identity.

More security men have also been sent to guard plane hangars to prevent Al-Ghozi and his companions from stealing an aircraft to use in escaping.

'Symbol of invincibility'

Task Force Davao's Pangilinan warned that Al-Ghozi could resume his "terroristic activities" in Mindanao even if he had already left for Indonesia.

He said Al-Ghozi's escape could inspire his allies into launching a new wave of terror attacks.

Pangilinan said areas previously identified by terrorists as targets, including Davao City and General Santos City, were facing a high risk because of the bomber's escape from his detention cell in Camp Crame.

Pangilinan said Al-Ghozi had become a "symbol of invincibility" to other terrorists, making them believe that it would be easy for them to commit crime with the big possibility of eluding trial.

"Al-Ghozi is just one person. We are more concerned in the symbolism he provides. He is a picture of invincibility. He is making them (other terrorists) 10 feet tall and boosted their morale," Pangilinan told reporters in Davao City.

Meanwhile, a local court in General Santos issued a warrant of arrest against Al-Ghozi.

Judge Marivic Daray of the Regional Trial Court Branch 35 issued the warrant on Tuesday, the day after the Indonesian national escaped.

Al-Ghozi was facing charges in Daray's sala for illegal possession of explosives. *With A report from Jerome Aning*

Al-Ghozi's mom: Up to God

FATHUR Al-Ghozi's mother said yesterday that all the reward money in the world would not lead to her son's recapture if God did not wish it.

"Whatever amount is promised to the captor of my son, if God wishes him not to be captured then he will not be captured," Rukhanah told Agence France Presse.

The government, severely embarrassed by the blunder, has offered a reward of P5 million for his capture.

Rukhanah, who said she had no contact with her son since his escape, declined comment on the Macapagal administration's decision to promise a larger sum for her son, compared to two Filipino members of the Abu Sayyaf kidnapping gang who escaped with him.

"That is entirely the business of the government there, it is not for me to comment," she said calmly.

"All I can say is that whatever he has done, it would not have been possible unless Allah did not wish it so," she said, speaking by telephone from her home at Madiun in East Java.

Rukhanah said she and her family would pray for her son's safety. She said she wanted to see him again but preferred not to do so for his own safety.

Indonesian police are on heightened alert at airports and seaports in case Al-Ghozi tries to return home. *AFP, AP*

Jailed teeners ...

From page A1

and two Abu Sayyaf bandits walked out of their cells inside the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame, two jailed teenagers made an even more incredible escape in Agusan del Norte early Tuesday morning.

A few hours before they were to undergo preliminary investigation for bicycle theft, the two detainees—aged 13 and 15—destroyed the padlock on their cell and sneaked out of the PNP jail in Santiago town.

Even more fantastic, the two teenagers fled with two M-16 rifles of their guards.

Most unbelievable, the two guards said they didn't notice the two teenagers leave jail—with their automatic rifles. The guards insisted they were not asleep during the jailbreak.

Chief Supt. Alberto Olario, Caraga regional police chief, said he had ordered the relief of the town's police chief and three of his men.

Olario said Senior Insp. Heros Morales and his men would be charged with infidelity in the custody of prisoners and handling of government property.

But a local official said relieving policemen would not make up for their ineptitude in guarding suspected felons.

"Even President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo could not help counter public perception about the inutility and ineffectiveness of the country's police. Nobody trusts the police now," said the official, who requested anonymity.

Earlier Monday, four prisoners convicted of homicide dashed to freedom on after their work shift at the plantation of the Tagum Development Corp. (Tadeco) in Panabo, Davao del Norte.

Police officials in Southern Mindanao confirmed the escape of the four prisoners only on Wednesday afternoon.

A spot report received by the regional police office said Romeo Lacsamana, Alex Marcos, Raul Vasquez and John Alison had failed to show up during the head count.

Minimum security prisoners are allowed to work in Tadeco, which is owned by the family of Davao del Norte Rep. Antonio Floirendo, under an agreement that the company signed with the Davao Penal Farm, formerly the Davao Penal Colony.

"It is not our duty to guard and secure the inmates working in the plantation. We do not interfere with the penal colony in their job," Carlos Munda, Tadeco corporate communications officer, told the INQUIRER.

Munda said Tadeco's role was limited to providing additional income for "lots of inmates." Around 700-1,000 inmates work in Tadeco's banana farms in Panabo.

While working in the plantation, inmates are placed under the custody of prison guards.

The guard overseeing the escaped prisoners was identified as Johnny de los Santos.

As of press time, none of the four inmates had been accounted for. *With a report from Joselle R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

US warns citizens of terror threats in RP

From page A1

ports of ongoing activities by known terrorist groups."

"In view of a number of security-related incidents and the possibility of future terrorism, kidnappings, and other violence or criminal activity, Americans traveling to or residing in the Philippines are urged to exercise great caution and maintain heightened security awareness," it said.

Wednesday's warning, which replaced an existing similar March 7 alert that had not been due to expire until Sept. 4, made specific reference to the jailbreak Monday by Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and two suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf.

"On July 14, three terrorist suspects with links to Jemaah Islamiya and other international terrorist organizations escaped Philippine government custody," the state department noted.

Al-Ghozi's escape has raised speculation that US President George W. Bush's scheduled visit to Manila in October had been called off because of security concerns.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye yesterday said the Philippine government would "do everything that is humanly possible to guarantee the safety" of the world's most powerful leader during his visit.

Bush visit on schedule

Bunye also told reporters that Bush's visit remained on schedule.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople likewise said that "while the escape of Al-Ghozi is a regrettable development, it does not affect plans for the visit of President Bush."

"Substantive and administrative preparations for the visit ... are in full swing. We look forward to a successful and safe state visit," Ople said at his weekly news conference.

In its latest warning, the state department reiterated other supposed dangers to US citizens in the Philippines, including threats from the Abu Sayyaf and the communist New People's Army, both of which Washington regards as terrorist organizations.

In addition, it repeated recommendations for Americans to avoid visiting the islands of Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Jolo in Sulu because of kidnappings and other criminal activity, and defer nonessential travel to the island of Mindanao, where there have been numerous bombings and abductions.

The state department also said that because of bomb-related incidents in Metro Manila, US citizens should avoid crowds and crowded places such as nightclubs and bars, and to be especially vigilant in other public areas like shopping malls or on buses.

Disappointment

Earlier yesterday, the US Embassy in Manila expressed disappointment over the Al-Ghozi escape.

"We expressed our disappointment at the escape ... because we think it heightens the risk for all of us in the Philippines," embassy spokesperson Frank Jenista said in a TV interview.

Jenista said the embassy had asked for the results of any investigation into the jailbreak, adding that "if it turns out that some people were derelict in their duties, then we would hope to see that there would be appropriate application of sanctions."

But Bunye said the US Embassy had called Malacañang to clarify that US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone was in constant touch with Washington both before and after the escape to say that there had been no change in plans regarding Bush's visit.

"The fact that they took the initiative to call us indicates that they want to clear the situation as early as yesterday afternoon," Bunye said, adding:

"We also find no reason for canceling the Bush visit because of this incident. It is a freak event, and we are hot on the heels of Al-Ghozi and his companions. They will not be given time to rest and to plan or to do their mischief.

"Our relations with the US stand at a strategic footing and should not be affected by this incident. There is more reason now to sustain our joint efforts at counterterrorism and defeating poverty."

Bunye also said that except for the mention of the Al-Ghozi escape, the new US alert was basically the same aired in March.

"We regret the negative repercussions of this incident, but both the military and police are stepping up their manhunt to go after the escaped terrorist," he said. "And we have coordinated with our Asean neighbors with whom we have antiterrorist agreements to help in recapturing Al-Ghozi."

Bunye acknowledged that "other countries have expressed dismay" over the escape.

"But we'd like to assure them that we're doing our best," he said. "We are a strategic partner of the United States. I don't think this relationship should be affected by this one single event. On the contrary, it's time to further strengthen the alliance between the United States and the Philippines in fighting terrorism."

No clinging violet

Ople said Bush was "a tough world leader and not the clinging-violet type" that would be cowed by the escape of Al-Ghozi.

But he expressed the hope that the Indonesian would be found before Bush's arrival in Manila. He said the Philippine and US leaders had "much [to] discuss" during their meeting.

If Al-Ghozi is not recaptured by that time, Ople said, "I suggest that the officers responsible for the state of jails in the country tender their resignation."

Ople said he expected Bush to pledge more assistance to the Philippines in the "fight against terrorism and war against poverty," in continuation of the pledges secured by Ms Macapagal during her state visit to Washington in May.

He said Bush's visit would also symbolize the "continuing strengthening" of Philippine-US relations.

Like Bunye, Ople said the new US warning was merely "a reiteration of a long-standing advisory."

"A single incident of this nature cannot be used to characterize the whole country as unsafe for visitors," he said in reference to the Al-Ghozi escape.

But Ople admitted that the escape had "completely besmirched the reputation" of the Philippines.

"It has degraded the good name of the Philippines and its police force," he added.

Ople also belied suggestions that Al-Ghozi was deliberately set free and "given" to Indonesia.

"Indonesia has never asked for Al-Ghozi," he stressed. *Reports from AFP; Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Gerald G. Lacuarta in Manila*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

METROMANILA FILMFEST

Ate Guy, Dolphy edged out

By Nini Valera

TWO HOURS before the finalists for the 2003 Metro Manila Film Festival were announced, Caloocan Mayor Rey Malonzo, who chairs the selection committee, said some people would get hurt.

Malonzo was talking about the producers, directors and cast of the 9 movies which will not make it to the film festival after the selection of the 10 finalists.

One of those "hurt" was director Elwood Perez, who even wore a stylized navy Barong Tagalog because he had been expecting to win.

But his "Bituin, Buwan at Araw" produced by Angora films and starring the 70s love team of Nora Aunor and Tirso Cruz III landed only in 12th place, rating 84.21 percent. "Bituin" followed Dolphy's "Harry Father," which took the 11th spot.

"No, no, I'm not upset," said Perez. "We have a good story. It has the elements of a Greek drama, but it's very entertaining.

"I really had apprehensions about coming here. I was location hunting. I said on the onset that Nora Aunor had many detractors."

He refused to eleborate, saying that all questions could be raised but he would not be badgered into making comments.

"But I'm grateful for my 15 minutes of film," he said. "Maybe, I would do a bold film next time."

Perez said "Bituin," a musical drama, had a good story written by a creative team led by Diego "Jigs" Recto.

"I thought the script was a lot better than "Bilangin ang Bituin sa Langgit, which won 18 awards. I thought it was also far better than my MMFF winner 'Pacita M,' which gave me the best director award and Nora the best actress award."

In case any of the 10 entries failed to deliver come the festival playdate, "Harry Father" will take it's place, followed by "Bituin."

But not all the winners were ecstatic with their victory. Regal's Lily Monteverde, whose "Mano Po II" made it to second place with 94.95 percent, was stony faced when her film was called.

She told INQUIRER Entertainment that she still had no script for "Mano Po II" and she still did not know who would play the third wife's role, which actresses Lorna Tolentino and Dina Bonnevie both want to play.

"I just tell them, 'Yes, yes, you would be the third wife, but up to now, I don't know, I don't know," said Mrs. Monteverde.

Star Cinema's "Milan" was in first place with a 94.99 rating, while Viva's family drama "Filipinas" was fifth with 93.55.

Seiko's girl bonding movie "Bridal Shower" about three female advertising executives (Rossana Ortiz, Ruffa Mae Quinto and Diana Zubiri) snagged the 8th place with 90.6 percent.

The other entries that made it to the list were the comedy "Crying Ladies" (94.63) starring Sharon Cuneta, Hilda Koronel and Angel Aquino; Gil Portes' Canadian co-production "The Homecoming" (93.01); Jose Javier Reyes' horror film "Malikmata" (92.58); the komiks characters "Captain Barbell" (89.98) and "Lastikman"; and "Gagambaboy," a fantasy movie.

Complain thru text

By Luige del Puerto

DO YOU have any complaints about an abandoned road work, the ugly traffic or the absence of a doctor at a health center?

If you are from Marikina City then you can now directly complain to or ask Mayor Marides Lourdes Fernando for help through Text 2960.

Carmelita Lorenzo, city information officer, promised that Fernando would bring up the text messages with her department heads.

To send a message, just text "mayormcf <space> your complaint or comment" and send to 2960.

This works for Smart, Globe, Talk N' Text and Touch mobile subscribers.

'We'll keep . . .

From page A22

Jocelyn said she had already accepted God's plans for her daughters. But she was still asking the Lord to keep Jhobelle safe.

She added she was thinking of changing Jhobelle's name to Milagrosa Jovelle, because her survival was a miracle to the family. Maria Jhobelle was the name Vladimir gave to the INQUIRER yesterday.

Vladimir also thanked the media for the support they had given the Calisaan family. A few reporters joined the funeral convoy.

Vladimir added that some people were urging him to file a case against MCU, but he said they are still too busy and worried about Jhobelle's condition to think about filing a case.

The Calisaans earlier said that while the MCU admitted the quadruplets at about 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the hospital later asked them to transfer to another hospital because MCU had no incubators.

The family added that while arrangements had been made with JFMH, the MCU refused to release the quadruplets until Vladimir was able to come up with P16,000 to pay the hospital fees about 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Jocelyn said her daughters could have had better chances of survival had the MCU released them immediately and transferred them to the JFMH.

But the MCU denied in a statement that it withheld treatment for the babies because of financial concerns.

Marasigan also earlier told the INQUIRER the babies could have had better chances of surviving if they were born through caesarian operation in a hospital with complete facilities rather than through normal delivery.

But Jocelyn said her doctor at the Espiritu Lying-in Clinic had no choice but to deliver the babies because two of the quadruplets were already coming out.

She added she went to the clinic on Tuesday morning only for a regular checkup. She said she had planned to give birth at the St. Jude Hospital.

Jocelyn was initially scheduled to give birth to her quadruplets in October. She was on her sixth month of pregnancy when she gave birth to her daughters.

DOH probe . . .

From page A22

Manila Central University Hospital, where they were first taken; Philippine General Hospital, where they were allegedly asked for a deposit; and the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital, where they were finally brought.

Dayrit said the investigation will follow due process. "If a team finds prima facie or substantial evidence of wrongdoing, results will be sent to the office of the prosecutor for the filing of criminal charges, such as violation of Republic Act No. 8344, otherwise known as the "No-Deposit Law," Dayrit said.

The appropriate administrative charges would also be heard by the DOH and sanctions against guilty personnel may be imposed, Dayrit added.

Tougher laws

Meanwhile, two senators yesterday sought passage of tougher laws to prevent hospitals from refusing medical treatment on poor patients in connection with the Calisaan quadruplets case.

Majority Leader Loren Legarda warned hospitals that RA 8344 prohibits the no-deposit, no admittance rule in emergency cases.

Legarda said that if Vladimir Calisaan's claim is true that the MCU Hospital did not admit his ailing quadruplets because he couldn't afford to pay the deposit, then the hospital violated this law.

For his part, Sen. Manuel Villar urged his colleagues to approve his bill that would require all government and private hospitals to extend free medical assistance to indigent children.

"If hospitals and clinics were prohibited from refusing admission of indigent children, the lives of the three babies could have been saved," Villar said in a separate statement.

Villar's bill proposes that the expenses incurred by hospitals extending free medical services to indigent children would be considered deductible expenses and losses for income tax purposes. *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

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Robbed, hogtied

By Leila Salaverria

THE ROBBERS were waiting at the victims' doorstep.

PO3 Gordius Alumbro said that when businessman Ruperto Conejos, 36, asked his maid to open the gates of his house on Abad Santos Street in Manila on Wednesday morning, around six to seven armed men rushed in and rounded up his family at gunpoint.

Alumbro said Conejos was about to drive his four young children to school in the family car at around 6:30 a.m. when the robbery took place.

Armed with guns, the suspects then forced Conejos and the children into the house, where they were hogtied, along with Conejos' wife, his secretary Caroline Pana and helper Alelie Nuede.

As the household looked on, the suspects took P150,000 worth of jewelry, P50,000 in cash, .keys to their Honda CRV and two cellphones.

The men fled after half an hour later, Conejos told police.

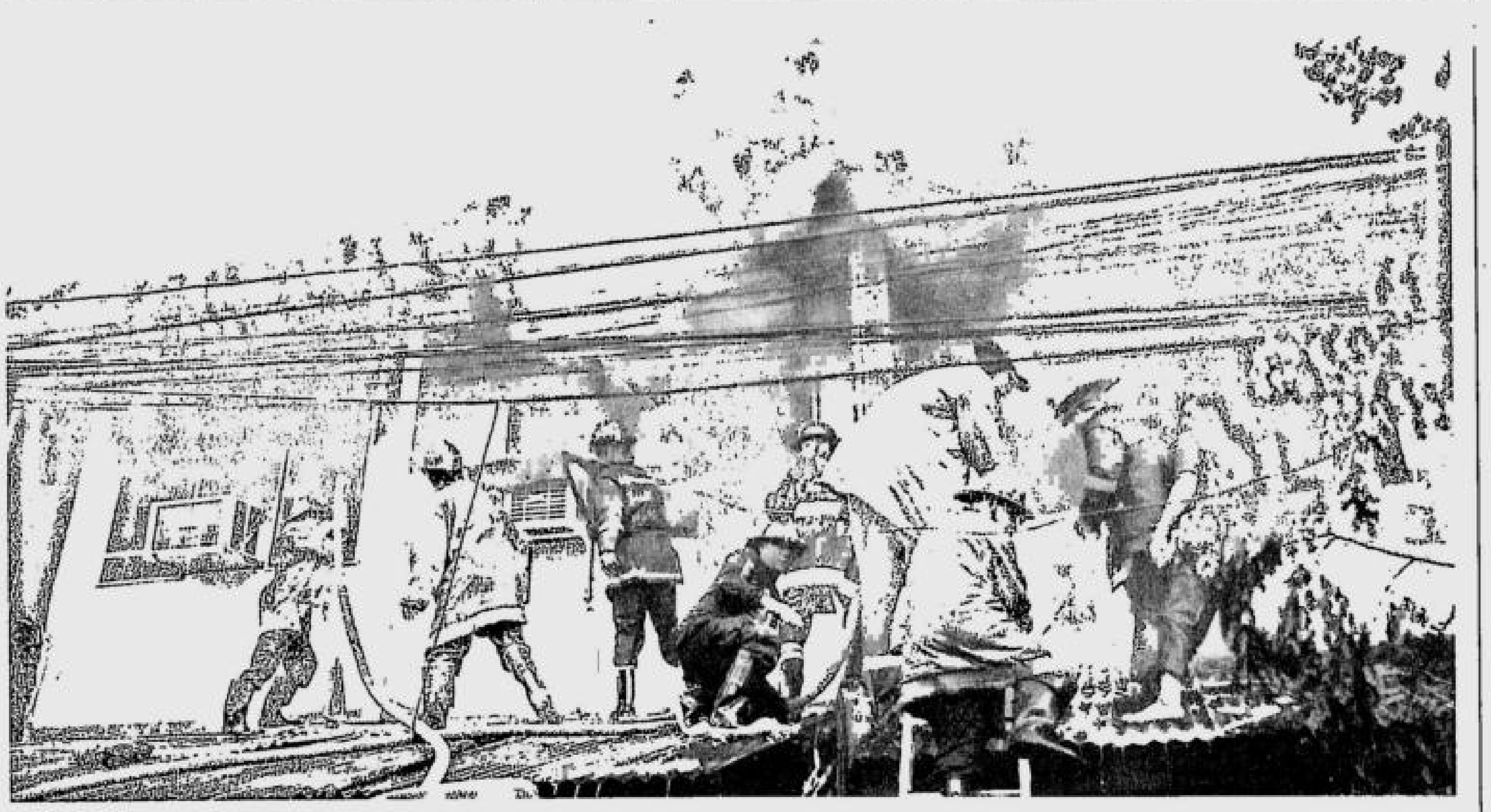
"Sorry, we just need the money," the victims quoted the robbers as saying, according to Alumbro.

Alumbro said the adults were able to free themselves after one of the children managed to untie her bonds.

He added that the victims had been able to see the suspects' faces and would recognize them again.

One of the children also told the police that the day before the robbers struck, she had seen a few of them loitering in front of their residence. This led police to suspect that the culprits had been casing the house before they carried out the robbery.

The police were able to come up with a sketch of one of the suspects, who was described to be around 39 years old, 5-foot-3, fair-complexioned and muscular.



AN APARTMENT ABLAZE

Firefighters clamber up the second story edge of an apartment to put out the blaze that has threatened to sweep across Crisolita Street, San Andres Bukid, Manila.

ERIK ARAZAS

METROBRIEFS

3 tanods rapped for rob

A CONSTRUCTION worker yesterday accused three volunteer watchmen of Barangay Magallanes in Makati City of robbery. Nonilon Gimeno, 32, of Cabuyao, Laguna, said Crispin Abejuela, 57, of 231 PNR South, Barangay Bangkal, Makati City; Eduardo Almero, 28, of 2073 Nuestra Señora Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City; and Robert Ambrosio, 35, of Kapayapaan Village, Cabuyao, Laguna, took his P800 cash. According to Gimeno, he was on his way home at about 7:30 p.m. when the three tanods accosted him along the South Superhighway. They allegedly took his wallet which contained his money. Gimeno sought the help of Barangay Bangkal tanods who helped arrest the suspects. Abejuela, Almero and Ambrosio all claimed that they had been "framed" by Gimeno. *Margaux Ortiz*

San Juan demands jobs

IN AN effort to provide jobs to residents, the San Juan Council passed an ordinance this week requiring all businesses in the town to hire at least 50 percent of their workers locally. Councilor Domingo Sese said failure to comply with the ordinance could mean the revocation of a violator's business permit. *Luige del Puerto*

Drunk drives car, kills boy

IGNORING the appeal for drivers not to drink and drive has killed a 3-year-old boy and seriously hurt three others in Marikina City at dawn yesterday. PO2 Ramil San Jose said the Mitsubishi Lancer Jeremy Vincent Crame was riding in slammed into a tree. He was declared dead on arrival at the Emilio Garcia Hospital. His mother, Maurine, 26, and who is nine months pregnant, Ferdinand Censon, 27, and the driver, Joselito Tangco, 27, were hurt. Tangco admitted to San Jose that they had just come from a drinking session at the Marikina River Park when the accident occurred along Gen. Ordoñez Street. Tangco fell asleep on the wheel, the police said. *Luige del Puerto*

Rider has no helmet

A DELIVERY boy was killed yesterday morning after the motorcycle he was riding collided with a taxi cab at the corner of Lacson and Loyola streets in Manila. SPO2 Rodrigo Tibio said 21-year-old Larry Gabani, who delivered baked goods, was not wearing a helmet at the time of the incident. His 19-year-old brother Jessie, who had been driving the motorcycle, was injured. Both were residents of 29 Silangan St., Balintawak, Quezon City. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Judge finds law she imposed on drug pusher too severe

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

A CALOOCAN City regional trial court Judge yesterday sentenced a 25-year-old man to life imprisonment for peddling 0.10 grams of shabu.

But in her decision, Judge Myrna Vidal admitted the punishment was "too severe."

Vidal, of Branch 127, gave a life sentence to Alquin Pagaspas of 19 Malaya St. Caloocan City, who was caught during a buy-bust operation in September last year in Caloocan City. The police confiscated about 0.10 grams of shabu from Pagaspas.

Pagaspas was also ordered to pay a fine of P500,000.

Investigation showed that on Sept. 12, 2002, PO3 Rodrigo Antonio of the Caloocan City Police posed as a buyer and met with Pagaspas. The policeman testified that Pagaspas delivered 0.10 grams of shabu a few minutes later.

But during the trial, Pagaspas denied the allegation that he was a drug pusher. He told the court he was just walking down an alley when Antonio suddenly grabbed him and brought him to the police station.

Pagaspas also said the policeman set him up and planted the seized shabu. The court, however, found him guilty of selling illegal drugs.

In her decision, Vidal said that while the court considered the penalty of life imprisonment for the sale of 0.10 grams as too severe, the court had no choice but to impose the law.

The decision cited the provision of the law, which imposed life imprisonment to death for the sale of illegal drugs regardless of quantity involved.

"Sadly, under the present setup, a big-time drug lord who sold hundreds of kilos of dangerous drugs or even larger quantities thereof of unimaginable proportions will be given the same penalty as the small-tile peddlers of dangerous drugs," the decision said.

Vidal also sent a copy of her decision to the Congressional Oversight Committee on Dangerous Drugs "to determine the inherent weaknesses in the law and recommend the necessary legislation or executive measures."

P2.5 M lost in QC bank heist

By Tina Santos

IT TOOK 30 minutes for six armed men to storm a Union Bank branch in Quezon City and haul off about P2.5 million yesterday afternoon, police said.

Chief Insp. Rudy Jaraza of the Central Police District's Intelligence Unit said the robbers, armed with handguns, virtually "controlled the entire bank," while the robbery was in progress.

He said that when the policemen arrived on the scene, all the clients were still lying face down on the floor.

He said the robbers, at least six of them, were very methodical.

Witnesses told police that three of the six suspects casually entered the bank on E. Rodriguez corner Banawe Streets, Quezon City around 1:45 p.m. and posed as clients.

Minutes later, they announced the robbery and disarmed the lone security guard, Arnold Villafuerte, 34, of Antipolo.

Moments later, the three other suspects followed, ordered the clients to lie face down on the floor and proceeded to empty the cash boxes.

Jaraza said there were about 20 people, including the employees, inside the bank. He added that the robbers even let more unsuspecting clients into the bank.

Witnesses claimed that the robbers also took their cash and valuables such as jewelry and cellular phones.

Jaraza said the heist took that long because the suspects waited for the vault to open around 2 p.m.

The vault has an automatic time-delay locking mechanism.

Jaraza, in a phone interview, said that nobody from outside the bank noticed what was happening inside because of the venetian blinds that draped the windows of the bank.

Witnesses told police that the suspects fled on board a white L-300 van.

Jaraza said that his men are now investigating this claim.

At press time, police were in the process of debriefing the witnesses.

Investigators are also trying to come up with police sketches of the suspects, based on the witnesses' accounts.

Bikers appeal to SC: Let us ride highways

By Alcuin Papa

MOTORCYLE enthusiasts have taken their fight for the right to use the expressways before the Supreme Court.

Lawyer Michael Ureta, lawyer for the Motorcycle Advocates of the Philippines (MAP), filed before the High Court last Monday a petition to review the recent decision of a Makati court upholding the ban on all motorcycles, regardless of size and displacement from using the expressways.

This means all motorcycles may not use the South Luzon Expressway, the North Luzon Expressway and the Coastal Road.

Ureta's petition before the SC for review came after Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Ma. Christina Cornejo of Branch 147 denied last March his petition to grant access to all motorcycles saying Ureta did not prove that previous orders banning motorcycles were "invalid."

However, Cornejo did say that the previous ban on motorcycles with less than 400cc was "unconstitutional" and violates the equal protection rights enshrined in the Constitution.

"Just as there is no reasonable and justifiable basis for segregating African Americans from Caucasian Americans in the use of facilities for interstate transportation, there is, similarly, no legal, justifiable, reasonable or compelling basis to bar motorcycles from access into limited access facilities," Ureta's petition read.

Ureta and his group filed a petition to allow all motorcycles on the expressways in February 2001.

Makati roadwork takes its toll on commuters, PUV drivers

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

THE ROADWORK on Pasong Tamo, renamed Chino Roces Street, is taking its toll on people. Go ask the commuters and jeepney drivers who are the ones paying the price of progress.

From the moment workmen started tearing up the street—a project of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority—public utility vehicle drivers have been taking home less than what they would usually earn in a day.

Parts of Pasong Tamo had been turned into a one-way thoroughfare, while others had been entirely closed because of the ongoing "road improvement."

Jeepney drivers plying the PRC-Mantrade route now have to live with the daily traffic jams even as they are forced to take longer alternate routes.

Francisco Meneses, a jeepney driver for 23 years, would make around 30 trips daily from Mantrade to PRC and back. Now, he could only make 20 trips.

"Because of the longer alternate routes and slower traffic, I also spend more for gasoline," Meneses said in Filipino.

"Before, 20 liters is enough for one day," said Meneses. "Now, it takes 30 liters."

From P600 a day to P300

Jose Bernabe, 53, has described the daily traffic jams as the worst he has ever experienced in his more than three decades of driving the PRC-Mantrade route.

"Before, I earn P600 every day," Bernabe said in Filipino. "Now, because of the project, I would be lucky to even take home P300 for one day."

Even the business establishments on Pasong Tamo are not spared.

Dr. Marcial Gatan, 70, who has a clinic on Pasong Tamo, said that the number of walk-in patients has gone down by 40 percent because of the roadwork.

"The project has brought a lot of inconveniences," said Gatan, who drives a maroon Mercedes Benz MB100 to reach his clinic on Pasong Tamo. "But that's part of progress, so we have to live with it."

Sales of a food shop selling grilled chicken near De la Rosa Street also plummeted, according to a crew member, Richmond Raqueto.

Closures

The project has even forced owners of a nearby gasoline station to temporarily close, according to Raqueto.

Pax Grill, a restaurant, also closed down on April 30. Caretaker Jaime Antillon cited the road improvement as one of the reasons for the closure. With the excavations, customers could not park their cars.

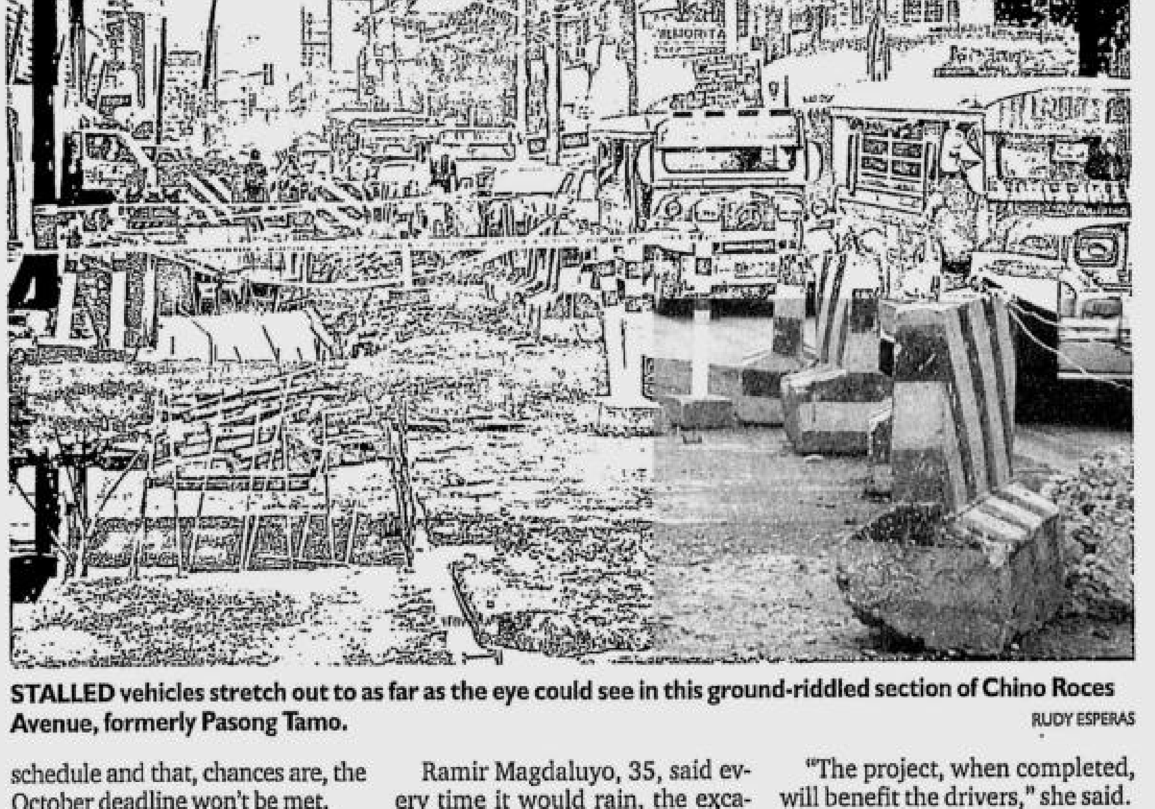
Even commuters who work in Makati City are complaining.

Victor Bueno, a Grade V teacher at the Maximo Estrella Elementary School, said that he now has to wake up an hour earlier than usual so as not to be late for his classes.

The P98-million Pasong Tamo road improvement project stretches to 2.424 kilometers, from the corner of Arnaiz Avenue to JP Rizal Street.

The project, which aims to improve travel conditions by implementing repairs on various Metro Manila roads, is part of the $97-million (P4.85 billion) Metro Manila Urban Transport Integration Project (Mmurtrip) funded by the World Bank and the government.

Mmurtrip is composed of three implementing agencies—the Department of Public Works and Highways, MMDA and the City of Marikina.



STALLED vehicles stretch out to as far as the eye could see in this ground-riddled section of Chino Roces Avenue, formerly Pasong Tamo.

RUDY ESPERAS

Deadline won't be met

The Pasong Tamo road improvement, one of the five Mmurtrip projects assigned to the MMDA, started in September last year and is scheduled to be completed by October 2003.

It includes the construction and declogging of drainage systems, installation of streetlights, road concreting and sidewalk clearing.

But MMDA resident project engineer Reynaldo Estipona admitted the project is already behind schedule and that, chances are, the October deadline won't be met.

With three months to go before the target date of completion, Estipona said they were still halfway with the project.

Last week, the project was given an extension of 42 days, which means the completion date has been moved to November or early December this year.

But the drivers are less optimistic.

Ramir Magdaluyo, 35, said every time it would rain, the excavations would be filled with water and workers would spend days pumping water out before they could continue working.

Patience

But another MMDA engineer, Celeste Sapno, called on people to be patient. He assured them that the MMDA is expediting the construction.

"The project, when completed, will benefit the drivers," she said.

Some drivers believe her, although grudgingly.

They said that while the construction had proved inconvenient for them, they know the project would be for the better.

In the meantime, drivers and commuters would have to endure the heavy traffic brought by the very project that is meant to solve it.

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SUPERLOTTO 6/49 6 17 21 25 34 40

METRO

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

'We'll keep holding on for Jhobelle'

DOH probe teams sent to hospitals

By Jerome Aning

INVESTIGATION teams were sent yesterday by the Department of Health to the different hospitals involved in the case of the Calisaan quadruplets, three of whom had died due to delays in providing proper medical attention and care.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said the move serves as a "signal to all hospitals to follow the law on proper emergency care without asking for deposit."

The DOH teams were sent to the Espiritu Maternity & Lying-in Clinic, where Jocelyn Calisaan gave birth to the quadruplets;

DOH/ A20

JOCELYN and Vladimir Calisaan take comfort from a tight embrace while viewing their three daughters Thursday as they pray and hope for the best for the surviving fourth girl, Maria Jhobelle. ERIK ARAZAS

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

MARIA Jhobelle, the only one remaining of the quadruplets born in Caloocan City last Tuesday, continues to struggle for her life.

And her parents, Vladimir and Jocelyn Calisaan, vow to keep holding on.

"I know my daughter is fighting. And I'm holding on. I am praying that she would survive," Jocelyn said.

Jhobelle was given a blood transfusion at the Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital (JFMH) yesterday while her three sisters were being buried at the La Loma Cemetery about 2:30 p.m.

But attending doctor Anita Marasigan told the INQUIRER about 4 p.m. yesterday Jhobelle was in an "unstable" condition.

"She needed a blood transfusion. A while ago I thought she would expire," Marasigan said hastily as she refused to give a lengthy interview because she needed to attend to the baby.

Jhobelle and her three sisters were born prematurely at 28 weeks on Tuesday morning at a lying-in clinic in Caloocan City. They were rushed to the Manila Central University Hospital and were later transferred to the JFMH where the three died.

Yesterday, a mass was held at the Floresco Funeral Homes in Caloocan City for the three babies, who were given the names of Maria Angeline, Maria Angelica and Maria Theresa.

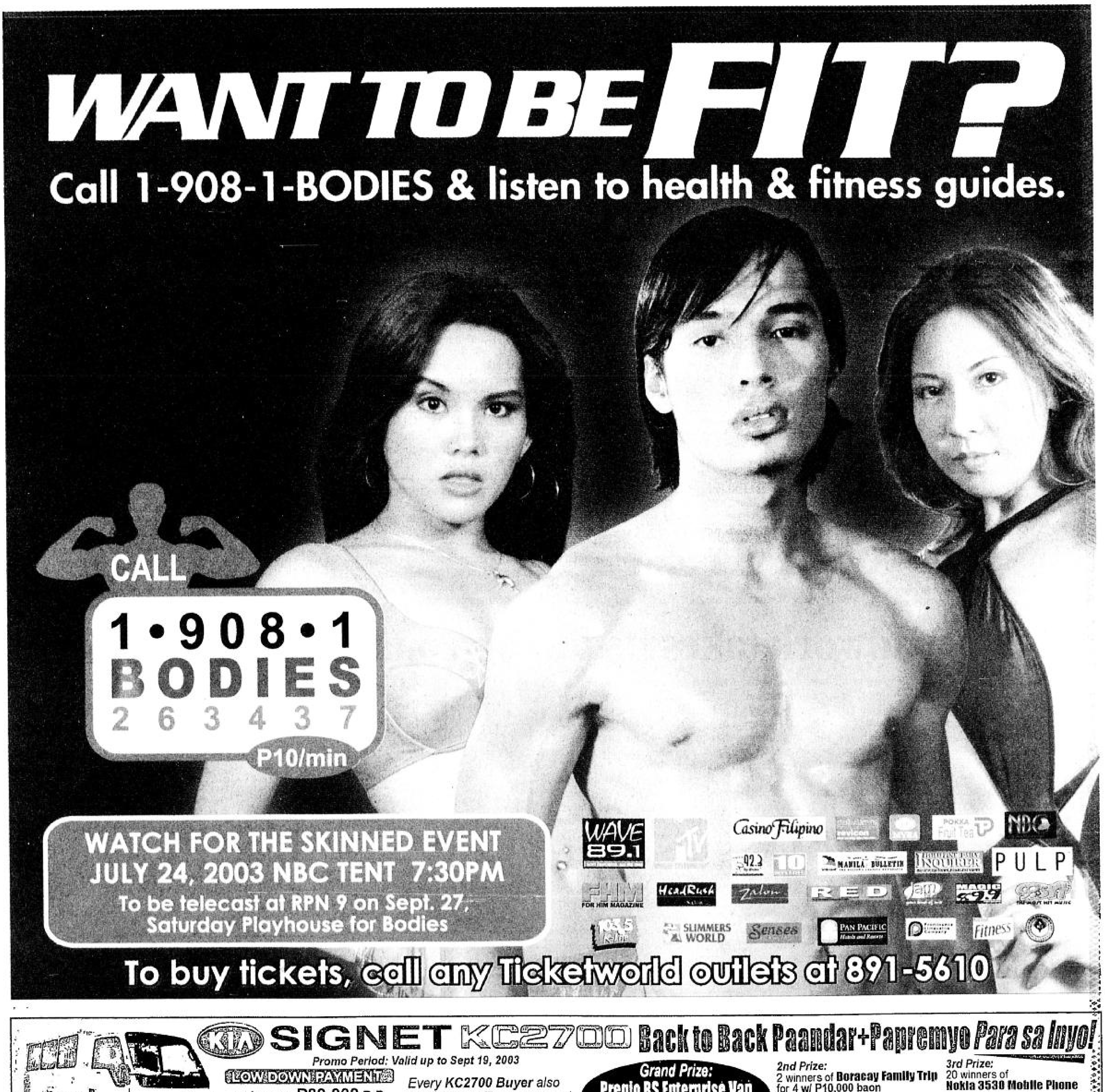
Relatives, neighbors and even strangers who had just read about the babies' death visited the wake. Vladimir said a number of people he never knew came to him and gave financial support.

Rocelyn, Jocelyn's eldest daughter, broke into tears as she told the INQUIRER how happy she was when she learned she would be having four sisters.

She said she was praying that Jhobelle would survive so she could teach her how to dance the "spaghetti song."

Jocelyn's other daughter, 11-month-old Tricia, innocently looked at the coffins of her sisters.

WE'LL KEEP/ A20



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BUSTAMANTE'S rout of former world champion Oliver Ortmann sets him up against compatriot Lee Van Corteza in the round-of-32.

Bata, Django gain; 3 other Pinoys fall

EFREN "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante led five Filipinos who hurdled their rivals, but three of their compatriots got waylaid in the knockout stage of the 2003 World Pool Championship at the Cardiff International Arena Wednesday night.

Overcoming a slow start, Reyes beat American Mosconi Cup captain Johnny Archer, 9-5, a two-time winner of this annual event, while Bustamante never gave 1995 world titlist Oliver Ortmann of Germany a chance with a 9-2 thrashing in the round of 64.

Joining Reyes and Bustamante, last year's runner-up, in the round of 32 were Ramil Gal-

BATA/ A24

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Superal gains piece of world jungolf lead /A24

- Tams pin 2nd loss on Eagles /A25

- Rich golden promise from Fil-Am gymnast/A26

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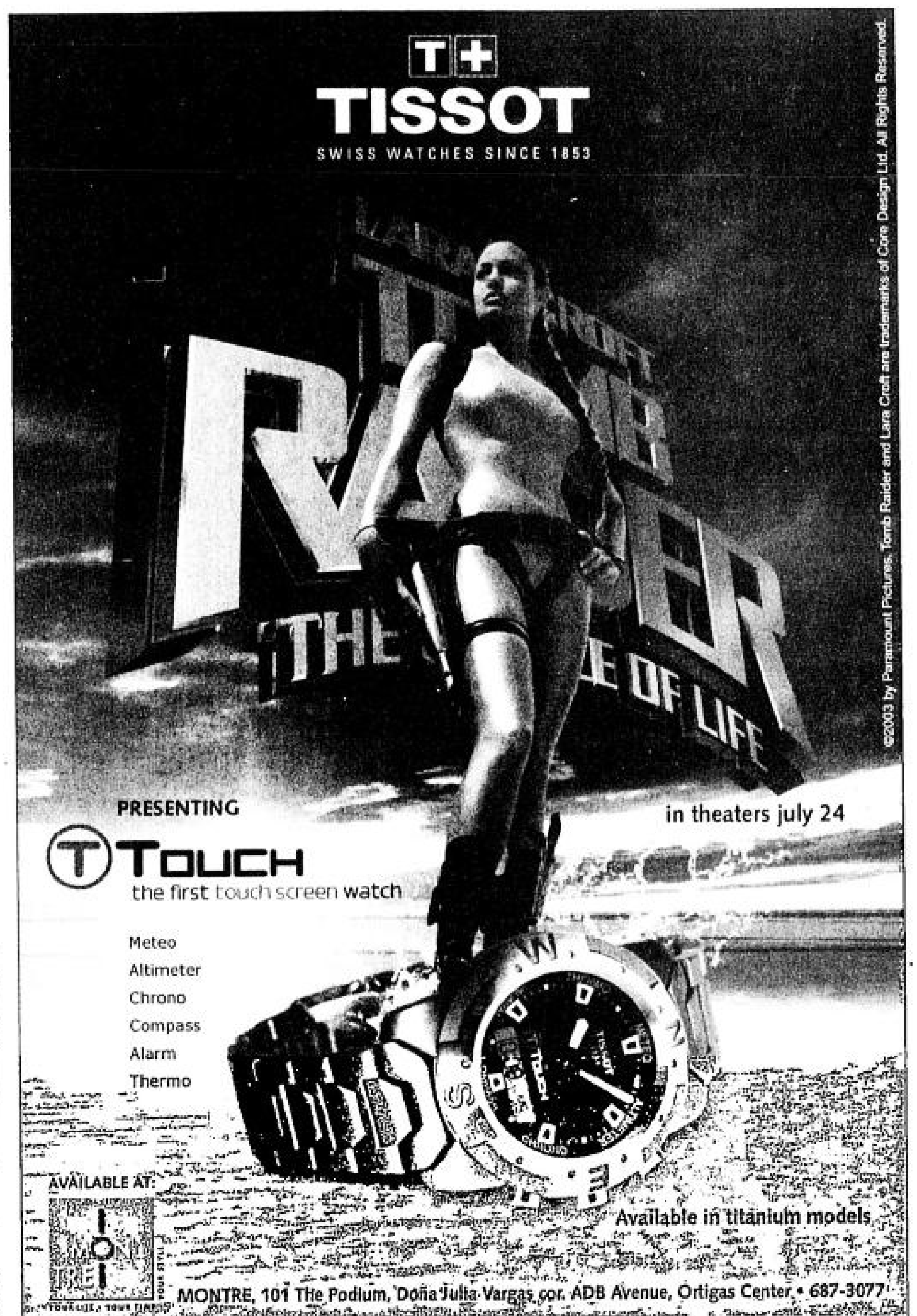
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Superal gains piece of world jungolf lead

By Jong Arcano

SAN DIEGO, California—Driven by the thought of bringing home a trophy for a sorely-missed mother, Wolen Juan Superal stepped closer to getting his wish by grabbing a share of the lead in the boys 9-10 years division in the Callaway Junior World golf championships here on Wednesday (Thursday in Manila).

Superal, exuding a confidence rarely seen in a kid on his first trip abroad, carried the fight for a Philippine contingent poised to strike in at least three fronts by shooting the best score so far in his division of five-under par 53.

Wolen, who doesn't even know that the country is anxiously waiting for him to become its next Junior World champion, joined American Cameron Wilson atop the penultimate round standings.

"*Gusto ko po kasing pasalubungan ang* mommy *ko ng* trophy," said Superal with an infectious smile when asked why he's holding his own amid the intense competition.

Superal and Wilson led a deluge of under-par scorers with their 108 totals at Singing Hills-Pine Glen.

And with so many players in contention, tomorrow's final round will be another occasion to show why this is the world's largest gathering of junior talents.

As Dottie Ardina also made her charge by carding her own five-under effort of 54, the Philippine contingent sent 13 players into Thursday's final round with at least three more expected to make the grade in the 15-17 years competition.

No delegation has performed better in the last 20 years, giving delegation head Gerry Handog all the reason to declare the stint as "a complete success" due to their long preparations.

Rebounding from her opening 61, Ardina jumped to fourth overall in girls 9-10 also at Pine Glen, and said she'll do her best to recover the seven-stroke deficit from India's Tanya Wadhwa in the final round.

The little aces of the 26-kid strong RP contingent were just as determined to deliver a victory.

Miguel Tabuena scored a one-under 53-110 at Presidio to move up to fifth but still trailed San Diego's Ben Doyle and Kristoffer Ventura by five strokes. Ma. Christina Potenciano, soaring to a 60-115 after a big collapse in the homestretch, also faces the same deficit against Los Angeles native Alison Lee who had pacesetting 57-110.

Mico Alejandro of La Salle-Zobel settled for a 72 for 144. He was four shots adrift in Class B.

Also gaining tickets to the final round action were JR Gonzales (60-55-115), JP de Claro (59-58-117) in Class E; Jobim Carlos (61-55-116) in Class D; Debbie de Villa (69-60-129) and John Kier Abdon (59-64-123) in Class C and Michael Camitoc (76-72-148) and Geleen Handog (76-82-128) in Class B.

WOLEN Superal reacts after a birdie in this file photo. Superal shared the lead in his class with an American in the Junior World Golf Championships. At left, Dottie Ardina follows through on her putt.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

BRITISH OPEN

Ex-rugby player's 68 sets early pace; Tiger struggling

SANDWICH, England—Early bird Hennie Otto of South Africa wiped the sleep out of his eyes to set the early first round pace in the British Open here Thursday.

The former Springbok rugby hopeful was in the first trio out at 6:30 a.m. and he came in with a three-under par 68 fired by four threes in a row from the 10th.

And with his putter hot in the cool, rainy conditions, it could have been even better had he not chipped too heavily at the closing hole, costing him his second bogey of the day.

"I was feeling really comfortable out there," said the 27-year-old playing in only his eighth European PGA Tour event of the year following his recovery from a back operation.

Otto had to qualify to make the main event but he did so in style scoring 14-under for the two rounds of golf on Sunday and Monday.

With the weathermen saying that bad thunderstorms were forecast for the afternoon, he said that he had been delighted with the early draw as it meant he would likely get the best of the conditions.

"But then I got here this morning and it was raining, but I am used to changing coastal conditions.

"I'll just sit back and watch them play now." Otto had the lead in the clubhouse, but out on the course Greg Norman, the last man to win here 10 years ago, and Tom Watson were both rolling back the years at three under.

Norman was fired by an eagle three at the fourth, while Watson, enjoying something of an Indian summer this year, had four birdies and one bogey.

Tiger Woods meanwhile continued to struggle after losing his ball and taking a triple-bogey seven at the opening hole.

Woods hit only one fairway out of his first seven and he was at two over playing alongside Sergio Garcia who was at one under. *AFP*

Philam golfers keep Intervillage crown

PHILAM Homes captured the Nokia Intervillage golf series overall championship for the second straight year by posting a final-round score of 299 at the Legends course of the Manila Southwoods Monday and beating UBF Homes by 16 points.

Philam Homes coasted to victory with a 36-hole aggregate of 582, including a superb first-round effort of 283 at the Valley last week.

Amadeo Ungson matched his first-round effort of 40 points under the Stableford system to lead the Philam golfers at the bunker-laden layout in Carmona, Cavite.

Backing Ungson's effort under the 12-to-play, eight-to-count format was the 39 of Junie Fontanilla, the 38s of Richie Lazaro and Jose Carlo David, the 37 of Bayani Fontanilla Jr., the 36s of Dedo Sioco and Arnel Agustin and the 35 of Felix de Vera.

BF Homes, led by Art Ampaya's 40 points, actually came through with the day's best score of 308 to snatch the Division B crown from Don Enrique Heights via a tiebreak.

Both teams finished with identical 566 points in the event sponsored by Nokia and backed by Alaxan, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Pisanti golf wear, 357 Boracay, Kaiseki Japanese Cuisine, 357 Boracay and BJ Marthel International.

In Division A, Greenmeadows, with six players scoring 38 points apiece, strolled to a trouble-free victory with a 565 after a 299, beating Alabang Hills (303-552) by 13 points.

Contentment

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

SAVE for the World 9-Ball Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales, and the 91st Tour de France, we have virtually a golf week this week.

Golfers are inevitably overjoyed because the British Open, golfdom's Vatican, is on, which means Tiger Woods and the rest of the world's best parbusters are back in action.

The Cardiff thing is of interest to us because Bata & Django are there as the country's top bets; six other Filipinos are entered, an indication that Pinoy cue artists have become world-class due mainly to international breakthroughs both scored by Bata & Django in the recent past.

Bata won in Cardiff in 1999, while Django missed winning it last year.

Django lost the crown to Earl Strickland but in the hearts of many, Django was a winner already even before he faced the American.

For, while battling Strickland, Django was burdened by the thought that his daughter lay dead thousands of miles away at home—felled by a rare disease. Despite that, Django fought bravely. Some breaks just didn't go his way and Strickland won by the so-called skin of his teeth.

Goes one song, "Some guys have all the luck." Strickland was that guy last year.

And the Tour de France?

Well, we are a cycling-crazy country, too. The Tour de France is cycling's NBA. We follow it like the mice following the pied piper.

American Lance Armstrong, who miraculously overcame testicular cancer, is now aiming to equal Spaniard Miguel Indurain's five straight victories in the Tour de France.

"Lance can do it," said Jesus A. Garcia Jr., the country's three-time multi-stage cycling champion, of Armstrong. "My prediction came out in my July 8 column in Sun-Star Pangasinan. I believe my guess will come out true again. Did I not also predict Arnel Quirimit's victory in the recent Tour ng Pilipinas?"

Biking Jess' prediction is looking good as Armstrong is now the overall leader.

I rarely raise doubts over Jess' ability to predict results in cycling. Of the many cyclists I've met - both champions and non-champions - I found Jess to be always analytical. Mostly, he backs up his forecasts with concrete data.

"Look," he said, "Armstrong is the only cyclist now who carefully selects his races. Good cyclists are like that. They concentrate only on the big ones. To Armstrong, the Tour de France is the only Big One."

Didn't I say just one column ago that Lance Armstrong is cycling's answer to golf's Tiger Woods?

Woods, in case you still don't know, is just about the only golfer in the world right now who gives priorities to golf's four majors—the US Open, Masters, British Open and PGA Championship.

Woods will dismiss a $1-million appearance fee anytime if it would mean interference in his preparation for a major.

No wonder that at age 27, barely seven years into his professional career, Woods has already won eight majors. Turning pro in 1996, Woods has now won a total of 38 tournaments, including a Grand Slam in reverse a couple of years back.

Tell me, who can top that?

Over in San Diego, California, we have the Callaway World Juniors, a tournament for 18 and below. It's an event where we have gained impressive victories quite a few times already.

Since Maling Montecillo broke through barriers by bringing the first Filipinos to play in San Diego in 1975, we have since been known worldwide as great producers of junior golfers, among them Ramon Brobio, Carito Villaroman, Gerard Cantada, Dottie Ardina, Jennifer Rosales, Dorothy Delasin, Carmelette Villaroman, Cosco Oben and many others whose names escape me at the moment. We have good material now, like Wolen Superal and Miguel Tabuena, who can win anew in the World Juniors. I wish them luck.

I'm a little sad, though, that the World Juniors isn't being televised. The Tour de France, too. But then, knowing that both the Cardiff Pool Championship and the British Open are on TV, that evens out things.

You win some, you lose some.

Bad to be greedy, anyway.

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Bata, Django gain; 3 other Pinoys fall

From page A23

lego, qualifier Marlon Manalo and Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Lee Vann Corteza.

Surigao's Gallego beat Russian Evgeny Stalev, 9-4; Manalo thumped Ernesto Dominguez of Mexico, also 9-4; while Corteza trounced Sweden's Sten Jarledal, 9-2.

Qualifier Dennis Orcullo's run finally ended when he yielded to American Max Eberle, 9-8, while Busan Asian Games gold medalist Antonio "Nickoy" Lining suffered the same fate at the hands of Japanese Haruyoshi Hinokiyama, 9-8. Warren Kiamco, another former SEAG titlist, got humbled by Luxembourg's Marc Holtz, 9-3.

Tied at 4 racks each, Reyes wove his old magic to frustrate Archer, a longtime adversary who has beaten him in the past.

"I was a bit nervous at the start but I'm always like that before I play. All the people in the Philippines are watching and I'm sure they were nervous too," said Reyes in an interview with Sky Sports.

Reyes, the betting favorite who is bidding to regain the crown he won in 1999, tangles next with dangerous Nick Van den Berg of Netherlands, a 9-0 victor over Kevin Smith of England.

"I've practiced a lot for this tournament," said Reyes, who won the Manila leg of the San Miguel Beer Tour and placed third in the ABS-CBN's RP-Europe Challenge topped by Mika Immonen of Finland, also a former world pool champ.

The thinning Filipino brigade is bound to lose one more bet as Bustamante and Corteza face each other Thursday night.

Gallego tackles Taiwanese Kun-Fang Lee while Manalo battles Korean Young-Hwa Jeong.

Roy Luarca

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

POOL: World Pool Championship 2003; Day 6, 1st Session; 7 a.m. (r); Day 6, 2nd Session; 12 noon and 3:30 p.m. (r); Day 7, 1st Session; 9 p.m.; 2nd Session; tomorrow at 2 a.m.; Star Sports—The stakes get higher as the best cue artists get closer to the top prize.

GOLF: 2003 British Open; First Round; 11 a.m. (r) Second Round; 5 p.m.; 8:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.; ESPN; 12:30 a.m.; RPN 9—Catch links golf at its finest across the Atlantic.

KOY THE BETTER BANAL

Tams pin 2nd loss on Eagles

By Dennis U. Eroa

FAR EASTERN sent defending champion Ateneo tumbling to its second straight setback with a 73-62 triumph yesterday and seized the solo leadership in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Big Dome.

High-scoring Arwind Santos ended the Eagles' determined catch-up bid when he buried a triple, 65-54, with 3:47 remaining which preserved the Tamaraws' second straight win.

Earlier, Derick Hubalde and Jemal Vizcarra accounted for six of Santo Tomas' 10 triples as the Tigers growled back with an 84-77 win over the National Bulldogs.

"Nothing extraordinary in beating coach Joel. This is just a game," said FEU mentor Koy Banal, whose elder brother Joel is Ateneo head coach.

Ateneo bowed to University of the East, 69-68, during the July 12 opener also at the Big Dome.

The clash was billed as a battle between the Banal brothers. Joel, 45, re-assumed the head coaching post after a successful stint with Talk 'N Text in the PBA.

Koy, coach of Viva Mineral Water that finished second in the last PBL tournament, was determined to put one over his brother, who also beat FEU twice in overtime last season during the eliminations en route to steering the Eagles to the title.

As in their scary 57-53 victory over the Adamson Falcons last Sunday, the Tamaraws lost their poise in the fourth quarter as the Eagles tightened their defense.

Ahead by 14 at the end of the third, 60-46, the Tamaraws scored only two points after five minutes of action, allowing the Eagles to threaten at 54-62, 4:49 remaining.

After Santos' hit stopped FEU's slide, it was the turn of Ateneo to falter as the Eagles turned the ball over in succession, allowing 6-foot-7 Dom Yabut and Gerard Jones to ice the game, 71-56, barely a minute remaining.

Rich Alvarez led Ateneo with 22 points and 11 rebounds but failed to gain enough support from his teammates, who faltered in the face of FEU's zone defense.

It seemed Ateneo was going to extend its mastery over FEU, tagged as one of this year's title favorites due to an intact and balanced lineup, at the start.

With LA Tenorio and Alvarez taking over the offensive chores, Ateneo roared to an early 13-4 lead, but FEU found its rhythm and took the half at 40-30.

GAMES TOMORROW
(Loyola Gym)

11 a.m.—Adamson vs UE (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Adamson vs UE (Srs)
4 p.m.—La Salle vs UP (Srs)
6 p.m.—La Salle vs UP (Jrs)

UAAP Scores

FIRST GAME

UST 84—Hubalde 18, Vizcarra 16, Espiritu 13, Manansala 12, Villamin 7, De Guzman 6, Luanzon 5, Evangelista 4, Cortez 2, Del Rosario 2, Espiritu 0, Raterta 0.

NU 77—Mendoza 27, Cajayon 19, Baguion 7, Tolentino 6, Miclat 5, Catamora 5, Mollena 3, Malcontento 0, Balljon 0.

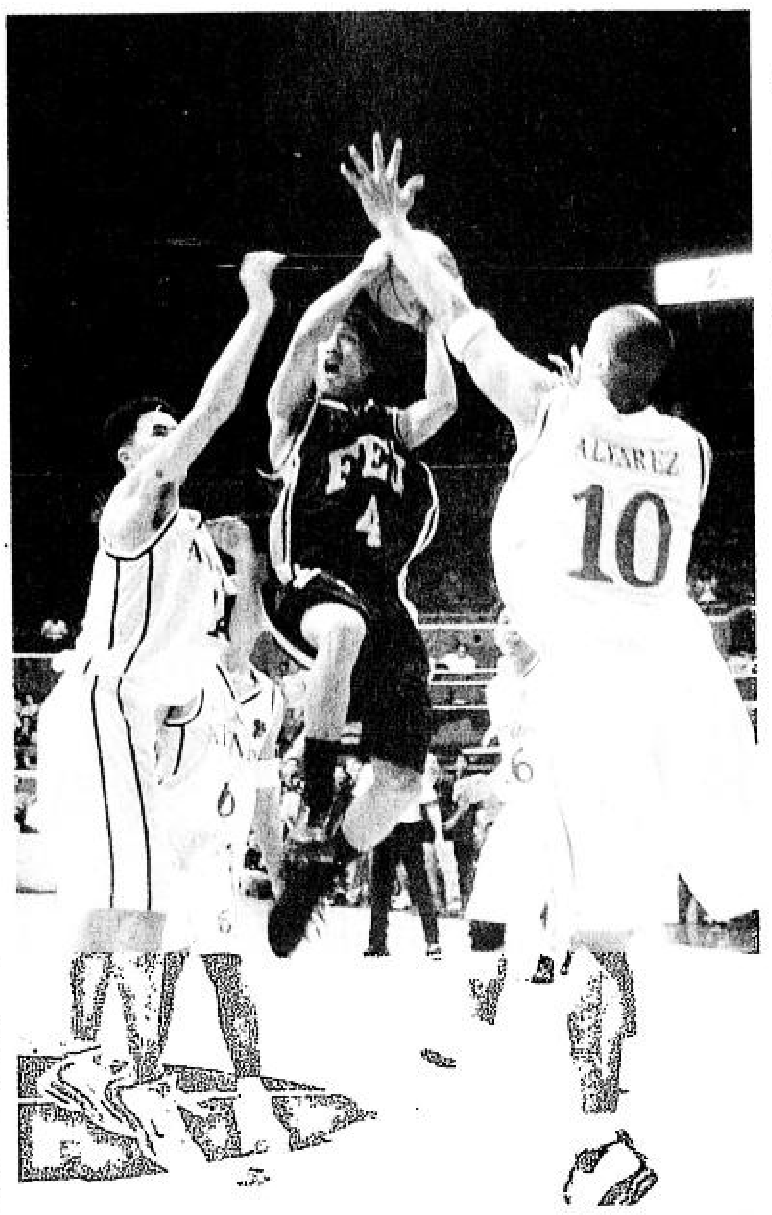
Quarters: 18-19, 38-35, 58-56, 84-77

SECOND GAME

FEU 73—Santos 17, Jones 12, Rizada 12, Yabut 10, Miranda 7, Calli 5, Sinco 4, Sierra 4, Isip 2, Zablan 0, Chan 0.

ATENEO 62—Alvarez 22, Fonacier 19, Tenorio 10, Bugia 4, Gonzales 3, Membrere 2, Intal 2, Kramer 0, Arao 0, Del Rosario 0.

Quarters: 23-18, 40-30, 60-46, 73-62



OUT OF MY WAY

PEPPERY Far Eastern playmaker Robert Sierra (above) attacks Ateneo's defense in the dying moments of yesterday's game at the Araneta Coliseum.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Altas try to halt slide vs Dolphins

STANDINGS	W	L
JRU	4	1
Mapua	3	2
Letran	3	2
SSC-R	3	2
Perpetual	2	2
San Beda	2	2
PCU	1	3
St. Benilde	0	4

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—PCU vs UPHR (jrs-srs)
4 p.m.—CSB vs SBC (srs-jrs).

PERPETUAL Help-Rizal, the pre-tournament favorite now reeling from two straight setbacks, tries to recover lost ground when the Altas meet the faltering Philippine Christian Dolphins today in the NCAA basketball tournamentat the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Altas (2-2) also hope to patch up their bruised pride when they clash with the Dolphins (1-3) at 2 p.m.

The San Beda Lions (2-2), who inflicted the second loss on the Altas recently, take on doormat St. Benilde (0-4) in the other senior contest at 4 o'clock.

Perpetual posted convincing victories over St. Benilde and defending champion San Sebastian but crashed back to earth with a narrow loss to Mapua.

Rookies Khiel Misa and Robert Barnson, Dom Javier and skipper Marcel Cuenco should play aggressively again if the Altas aspire to stay in touch with the leaders.

Jose Rizal is enjoying the view at the top with a 4-1 card while the Cardinals, Letran Knights and the Stags are close behind with identical 3-2 records.

The Baby Dolphins and the Altalettes collide in the curtain-raiser at 11:30 a.m. *June Navarro*

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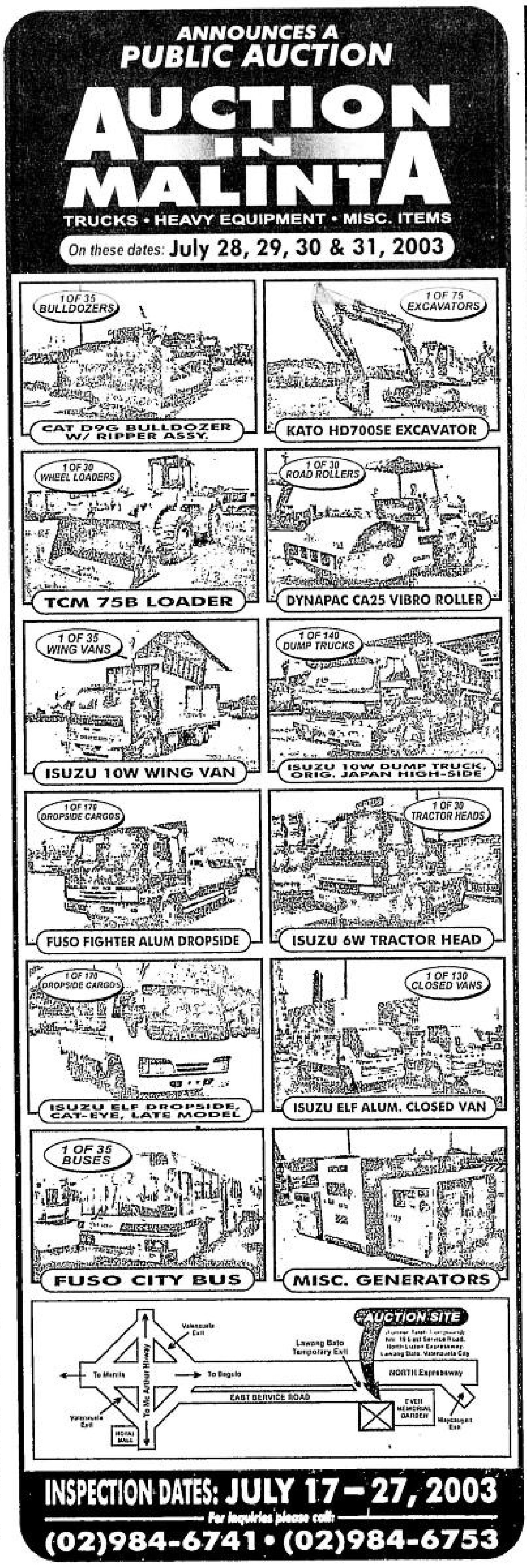
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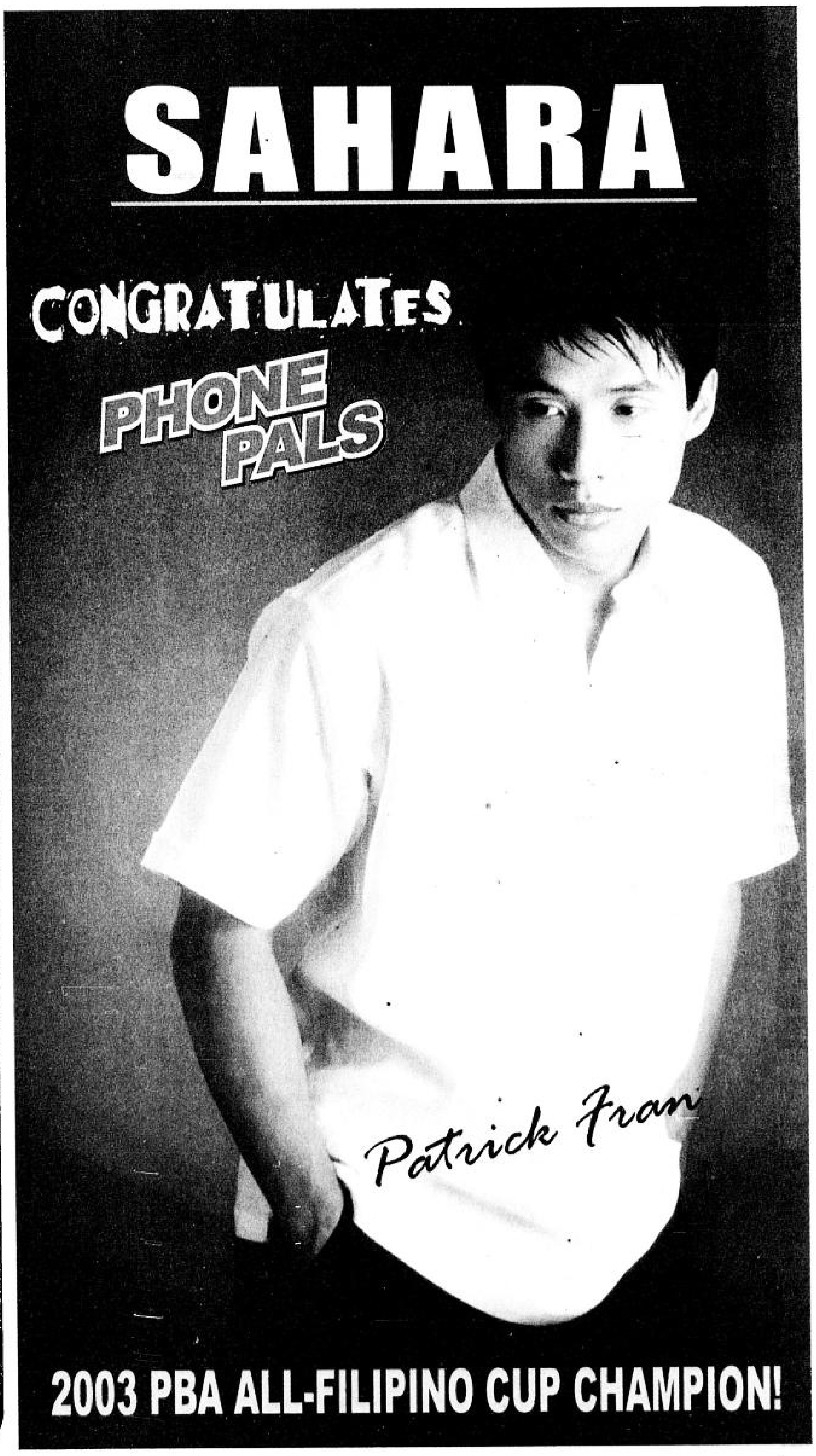
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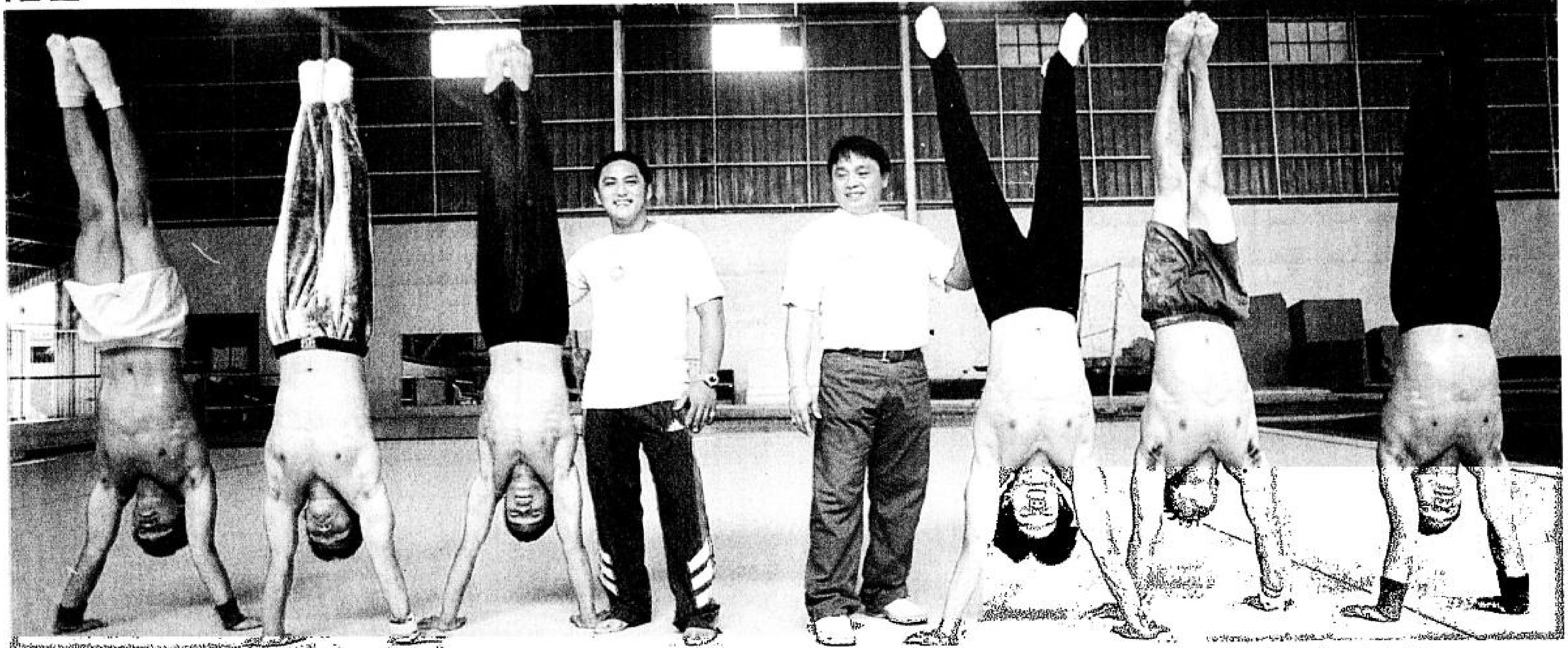
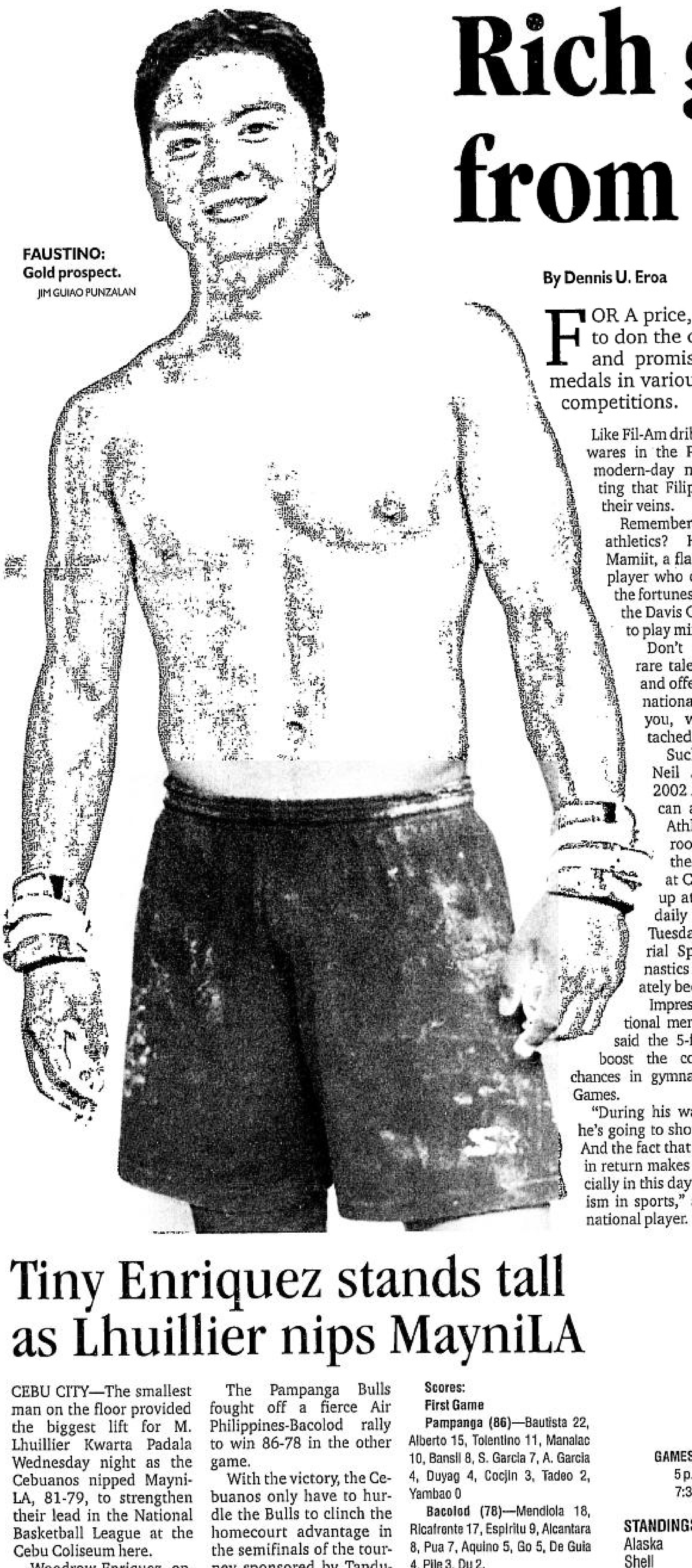


HEAD coach Sonny Ty and assistant coach Robin Padiz pose with the Philippine gymnastics team made up of (from left) Neil Faustino, Roel Ramirez, Rico Ramirez, Ronnie Ramirez, Brydon Sy and Jovin Estera. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Rich golden promise from Fil-Am gymnast



FAUSTINO: Gold prospect. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Dennis U. Eroa

FOR A price, they're willing to don the country's colors and promise to win gold medals in various international competitions.

Like Fil-Am dribblers strutting their wares in the PBA, they resemble modern-day mercenaries, forgetting that Filipino blood flows in their veins.

Remember David Bunevacz of athletics? How about Cecil Mamiit, a flash-in-the-pan tennis player who could have reversed the fortunes of the Philippines in the Davis Cup if only he agreed to play minus the cash?

Don't despair, though. A rare talent may just surface and offer his services for the national cause. And mind you, with no strings attached.

Such was the case of Neil Joseph Faustino, a 2002 Academic All-American and Eastern College Athletic Conference rookie of the year from the University of Illinois at Chicago, who showed up at the national team's daily training session last Tuesday at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex gymnastics center and immediately became a hit.

Impressed with his skills, national men's coach Santiago Ty said the 5-foot-6 Faustino could boost the country's gold medal chances in gymnastics in the biennial Games.

"During his warm-up, I knew that he's going to show something special. And the fact that he has asked nothing in return makes him a rare find especially in this day of rampant materialism in sports," said Ty, a many-time national player.

FIL-AM ace shows form on the rings. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

The 20-year-old Faustino was accompanied by sportsman-businessman and uncle Johnny Valdes, former manager of the multititled La Salle men's basketball squad currently seeing action in the UAAP wars.

Faustino impressed Ty with his performance in the rings, the vault and parallel exercises with jet lag and all.

A former karate-do and diver at the Lincoln High School, this son of Noli and Binggay Faustino said he would be honored if he makes the grade for the coming Vietnam SEA Games.

The RP gymnasts failed to win a gold in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur Games after playing major roles in the country's SEA Games campaign in the past.

Ty and company want to reverse the nationals' fortunes starting in Vietnam. And winning the team event would be a big step toward regaining the country's supremacy in the sport.

Ty said he is going to request Celso Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, to include Faustino in the national team.

"Our bid to win the gold in the team event will be boosted with Neil's presence. He's going to help us a lot," said Ty.

The other members of the Philippine team are Roel and Rico Ramirez, Brydon Sy and Jovin Estrera.

Five gymnasts compete in the team event, but only the best four scores count.

A Harry Potter fanatic, Faustino, said he is going back to the US on Saturday and will come back in November to give himself enough time to prepare for the SEAG scheduled Dec. 5-13 in the cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh.

During his short stay in the country, Faustino visited his relatives, went malling and became fond of native delicacies like *lumpiang shanghai*, *pancit canton* and *adobo*.

Faustino was influenced by his younger sister Nina to go into gymnastics. The Faustinos are sports lovers with Nina even playing as pointguard for her school's basketball team.

During the 11th SEA Games in Manila, Luisito Hilario and Rolando Albuera shot to prominence by winning a combined five gold medals in gymnastics. That started a string of sterling performances by local gymnasts in the Games. Alexander Tolentino and girl wonder Bea Lucero, Cintamoni de la Cruz, Cathy Ocampo and Jasmin Valenton also sizzled in various SEA Games.

Faustino may yet prove to be the missing link in the country's bid to regain prominence in the SEA Games.

"Well, it's hard to promise anything but I just want to make my parents proud," said Faustino, a junior computer science student at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

Tiny Enriquez stands tall as Lhuillier nips MayniLA

CEBU CITY—The smallest man on the floor provided the biggest lift for M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala Wednesday night as the Cebuanos nipped MayniLA, 81-79, to strengthen their lead in the National Basketball League at the Cebu Coliseum here.

Woodrow Enriquez, only 5-foot-2 in height, drilled in a layup shot in the final 2.9 seconds to spell the difference in the Cebuanos' eighth win in nine games.

"That play was really designed for him. I'm happy that he delivered," said Lhuillier coach Raul "Yayoy" Alcoseba of Enriquez, who finished with 13 points, seven assists and three rebounds.

The Pampanga Bulls fought off a fierce Air Philippines-Bacolod rally to win 86-78 in the other game.

With the victory, the Cebuanos only have to hurdle the Bulls to clinch the homecourt advantage in the semifinals of the tourney sponsored by Tanduay Rhum, Air Philippines, Cebu Ferries, Nature's Spring Drinking Water, SuperCat, BJ Star Logistics, Panasonic, Sinners and Saints, The Freeman, Jaguar KTV, Gatorade and Molten Basketballs.

MayniLA raced to a 70-63 lead with 7:25 to go. But Aldrin Ocanada sparked a Lhuillier comeback capped by Enriquez's winning basket.

Scores:

First Game

Pampanga (86)—Bautista 22, Alberto 15, Tolentino 11, Manalac 10, Bansil 8, S. Garcia 7, A. Garcia 4, Duyag 4, Cocjin 3, Tadeo 2, Yambao 0

Bacolod (78)—Mendiola 18, Ricafrente 17, Espiritu 9, Alcantara 8, Pua 7, Aquino 5, Go 5, De Guia 4, Pile 3, Du 2.

Quarterscores: 27-17, 53-37, 72-55, 86-78

Second Game

Cebu (81)—Ocanada 16, Dacia 14, Enriquez 13, De la Rosa 10, Lumantas 10, Smith 7, Rodriguez 5, Caputolan 4, Aying 2, Canoneo 0, Cantona 0

MayniLA (79)—Serrano 18, Yap 14, Sanz 12, Buendia 10, Mallari 8, Gumatay 5, Corbin 4, Finullar 4, E. Garcia 4, Manucat 0, Alabanza 0

Quarterscores: 25-13, 39-37, 56-62, 81-79

Alaska seeks No. 3 against Sta. Lucia

GAMES TODAY (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
5 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Alaska
7:30 p.m.—Ginebra vs Shell

STANDINGS	W	L
Alaska	2	0
Shell	2	1
Sta. Lucia	1	1
Ginebra	1	1
Purefoods	0	3

ALASKA shoots for its third straight victory against Sta. Lucia Realty today in the qualifying round of the Samsung-PBA Invitational Championship at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Inspired by their 99-79 romp over the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs the other night, the Aces try to move within a game of sweeping the single-round qualifying when they meet the Realtors at 5 p.m.

The Shell Turbochargers, 87-76 conquerors of the Realtors on Wednesday, oppose the Ginebra Gin Kings in the 7:30 nightcap.

The Realtors (1-1) are in a must-win situation along with the Gin Kings, who will have the Aces as rivals this Sunday.

If Alaska prevails over Sta. Lucia, the Aces get a solid hold of the lone qualifying slot since they have already beaten the Turbochargers.

For Shell to advance, the Turbochargers should win their last two games and hope they emerge with the best quotient which will decide three-way or four-way ties.

In case of a two-way deadlock, the winner-over-the-other rule will be applied.

The survivor of the one-round series will join FedEx, Talk 'N Text, San Miguel Beer, Coca-Cola and Red Bull in the tournament proper along with the RP men's team and three foreign squads from China, Korea and Yugoslavia.

Talk 'N Text will be gunning for a second straight title in the tournament after toppling defending champion Coca-Cola in the All Filipino Cup last week.

The national quintet hopes to use the event as preparation for its defense of the Southeast Asian Games crown in Vietnam this December.

The second conference gets going on July 27.

'The Butcher' tries to cut down Pacquiao

Unbeaten challenger Lucero reveals fight plan

PACQUIAO will have his hands full against Lucero. VAL HANDUMON

By Salven L. Lagumbay

NOT much has been written about him, but Mexican Emmanuel "Carnecerio" Lucero, the WBC Continental Americas superbantam champion, is reportedly undergoing a Spartan-like training regimen for his biggest fight to date—a match against IBF superbantam king Manny Pacquiao.

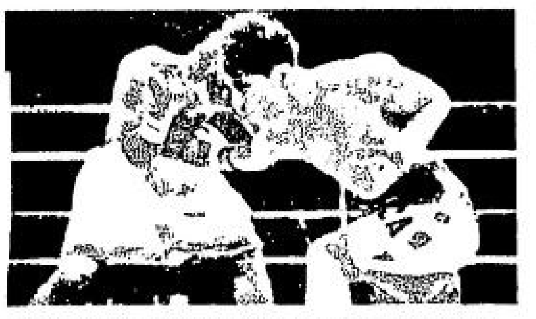
The Bronx-based Lucero, trained by the world-renowned Fermin Sencion and ranked IBF no. 10, will challenge Pacquiao for the IBF crown on July 26 (July 27 in Manila) at the 6,200-capacity Grand Olympic Auditorium.

The bout takes place in the undercard of the Fernando Vargas-Fitz Vanderpool showdown. Both fights will be aired by HBO in the US, and RPN-9 here in the Philippines.

Who is Emmanuel Lucero?

Born on Nov. 3, 1978 in Mexico City, Lucero took to boxing at an early age. In 1990, he traveled to New York and began an extraordinary amateur career.

Lucero compiled an outstanding amateur record as a terrific body puncher. With this style, Lucero became 1993 Junior Olympic Champion, 1993-94 Junior Metro Champion, 1995 New York Golden Gloves Champion, 1995 Empire State Games Champion, 1996 Empire State Games finalist, 1997 New York Golden Gloves Champion, 1997 Empire State Games Champion and a 1997 National Golden Gloves quarterfinalist.



LUCERO (right) attacks the midsection of an opponent in this file photo.

"I try to cut down my opponent like a tree. I work on his body until he is tired," said Lucero, who in his amateur career had floored more than 10 opponents. The figure could have been more, but the "3-round only" amateur set-up had allowed many to escape Lucero's bone-crushing left hooks to the ribcage.

In January 1998, Lucero turned pro and signed a promotional deal with Main Events, the outfit run by Kathy Duva of the famous Duva family in boxing. Among his more stablemates there are ex-WBA junior middle champ Fernando Vargas, WBA welter champ Vivian Harris, Olympians Ricardo Juarez and Calvin Brock, Arturo Gatti, as well as young upstarts Francisco Bojado, Nate Campbell, Freddie Cadena and Juan Diaz.

Now nicknamed "The Butcher" (Carnecerio) by his co-manager Johnny Bos owing to his crippling power, Lucero made short work of Philippe Gandus in his pro debut on Aug. 22, 1998. A thundering left hook to the midsection put away Gandus.

The same old potent weapon that he used in his glorious amateur career has remained his best offense: a blistering left hook. It is the same left hook that had stopped 12 opponents in his immaculate record of 21 wins and a draw.

"*Malakas talaga 'yung* left hook *nya*," (His left hook is indeed strong), confirmed Manny Pacquiao, in a long-distance interview with the INQUIRER the other day. Pacquiao also noted that he should guard against a right "haribas" (roundhouse punch or wallop).

Pacquiao, however, said his trainers Freddie Roach and Buboy Fernandez have already devised a plan to contain Lucero. "*Pinag-aralan na namin ang estilo niya. Nakita ko na ang* tape. *Sa labas ko siya kukunin. Dapat mag-ingat.* (We have already studied his style on tape. I'll fight him from a distance. But I must be careful).

Indeed, Manny Pacquiao can't afford to be careless against The Butcher.

Lear mandatory defense against Felisilda Aug. 8

AN EXPLOSIVE fight awaits fans when reigning bantam champion Johnny Lear of Cebu stakes his title against mandatory challenger Alvin Felisilda of Bukidnon on Aug. 8 at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

The Lear-Felisilda showdown will complement the face-off between Pan Asian Boxing Association junior fly champ Rolly Lunas and Thai hero Deeden Kengkarun in the undercard.

The 23-year-old Lear, who was originally set to challenge WBC International champ Roger Galicia before the latter backed out, is expected to have his hands full against the bullstrong Felisilda of the Leonil Lazarito Stable.

"After Galicia's camp showed no interest in fighting Lear, I was forced to look for an opponent willing to step up to the plate. Felisilda even poses a bigger threat for Lear," said international matchmaker Jun Sarreal, who is putting up this event with the support of Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos.

Lear is coming off a third-round annihilation of Japanese Hisataka Ikemori in his last fight last May 17. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda VOL I NO. 031

You Bata watch out

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.
o True / o False: Efren 'Bata' Reyes was born in Angeles, Pampanga, on Aug. 24, 1954.

2 > 5 Pts.
Efren first became world champion in which event?
o 8-ball
o 9-ball

3 > 7 Pts.
What's the name of the billiards hall in Sta. Cruz, Manila, where Efren began weaving his 'magic' in the early 1960's?
o Puyat Pool
o Lucky 13
o Luisa & Sons

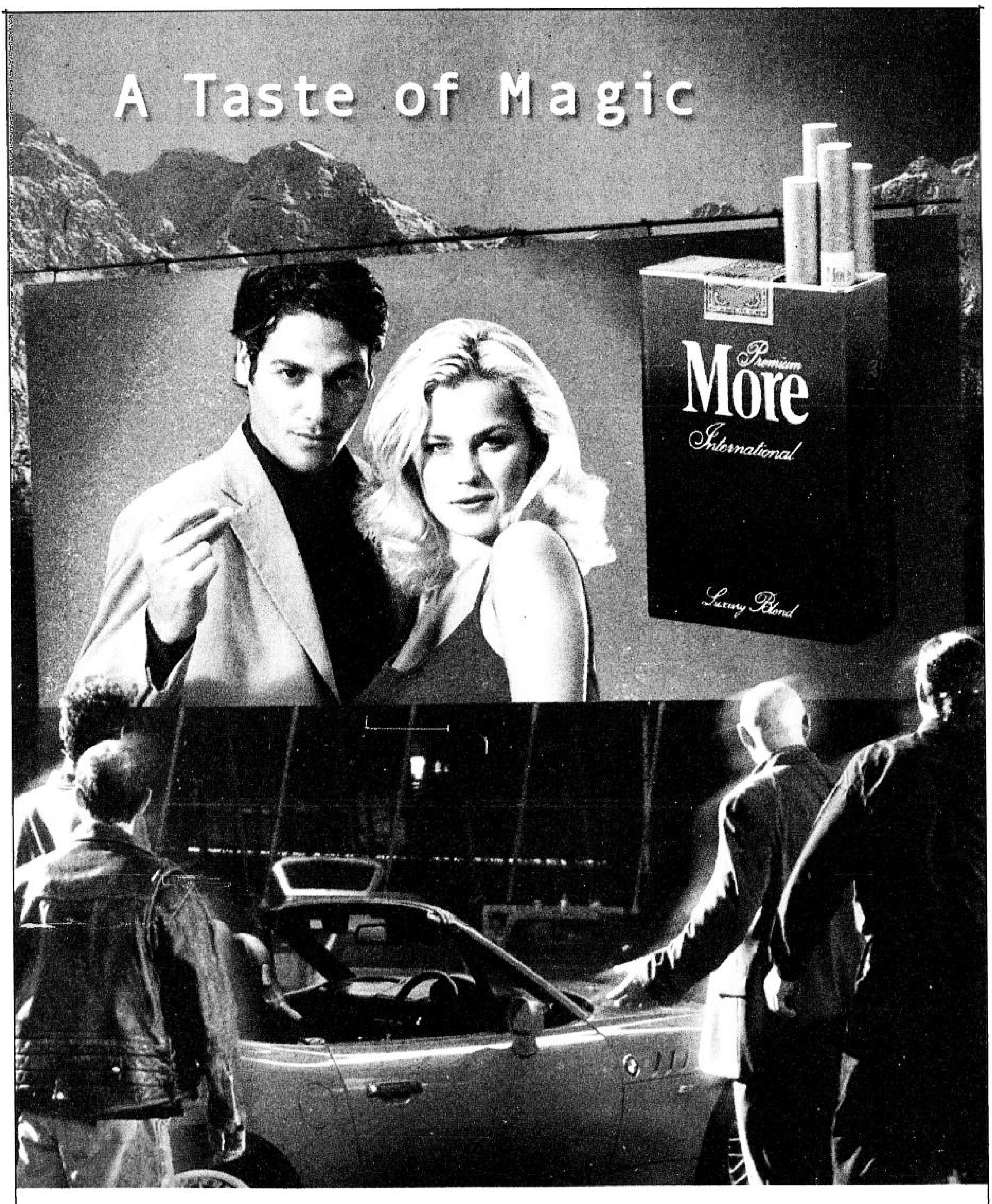
4 > 10 Pts.
Whom did Efren beat in the 'Color of Money,' a three-day $100,000 race-to-120 in Hong Kong in 1997?
o Johnny Archer
o Earl Strickland
o Nick Varner

5 > 15 Pts.
What was the first big-time US tournament won by Efren in 1985?
o Sands Regency 9-Ball (Reno)
o Florida Flare Up III 9-Ball (Miami)
o Bicycle Club 9-Ball (Los Angeles)
o Red's 9-Ball Open (Houston)

6 > 25 Pts.
Which of the following is Efren's favorite pool player?
o Francisco 'Django' Bustamante
o Johnny Archer
o Jose 'Amang' Parica, Jr.
o Steve Davis

7 > 30 Pts.
Name Game: How did Efren get his "Bata" monicker?

SPORTS NOODLE/ A28



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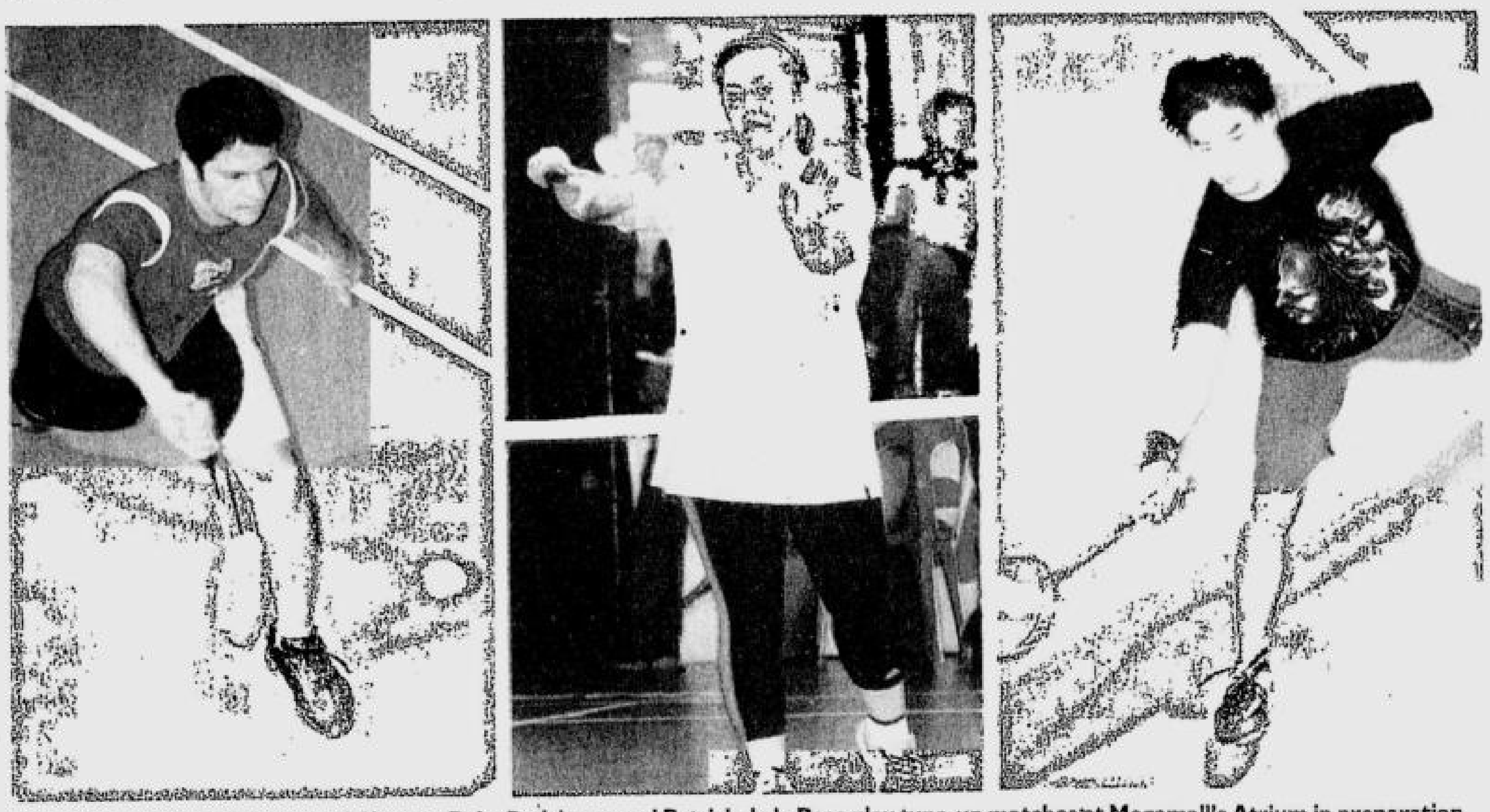


CELEBRITIES (from left) Jestoni Alarcon, Ruby Rodriguez and Patrick de la Rosa play tune-up matches at Megamall's Atrium in preparation for Sunday's celebrity cup event at the venue.
AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

CORPORATE AND CELEBRITY BADMINTON

Divers lead qualifiers

DIVE Shoppe grabbed its fourth straight win Wednesday night to lead eight teams into the quarterfinal round of the first Sportshouse Corporate and Celebrity Cup Invitational Badminton at the Yellow Feather Badminton Center in Libis.

Mentored by Ronald Magnaye and playing out of the Camp Aguinaldo Badminton Club, Dive Shoppe outclassed Bingo Bonanza Corp., 4-1.

The divers banked on the sterling performances of Teng Dayan, Alma Bringas, Gina Flores, Jhona Magnaye, Jingle Chan, Jeh Gloria, Willy Agbulos and Emma Agbulos to earn the first ticket to the quarterfinals, which got under way at the SM Megamall Atrium last night.

Despite the loss, Bingo still made it to the next round together with Crossover-HSBC, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Nokia, CB-Richard Ellis, Procter and Gamble Alpha, and Asian Development Bank. They all finished the elimination round with 3-1 win-loss records.

The Atrium of the Megamall will host the quarterfinals and the semifinals tomorrow and the finals and the Celebrity Cup Sunday. At 1 p.m. today, Sportshouse will conduct badminton clinics and fun games at the venue.

Crossover-HSBC, powered by Rose Tantoco, Angel Yu, Odie Bautista, Mark Paz,, Christine Magsusi, Mac Saldua, Paolo Mapale, Ginggoy Lotho and Gina Salumbides, demolished Philippine National Bank, 5-0.

Philippine Daily Inquirer downed Asian Development Bank, 4-1, behind the brilliant games of Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Judy Lim, Raul Marcelo, Amanda Carpio, Isabel Barandaran, Arsenio Laurel, Raymond Rufino, Dave Valdez and Gem Padilla.

Nokia, composed of Maan Herrera, Marcy Florencio, Zain Amiv, Kent Sitaca, Jay Exconde, Sumit Sharma, Martin Fernandez and Beth Ng, clobbered Philippine Star, 4-1, while CB-Richard Ellis scored a similar 4-1 win over Procter and Gamble Beta on the efforts of Anali Arcinas, Carol Halili, Kingson Sian, Salvador Vengco, Charina Se, Heidi Labrador, Joey Radovan and Charmaine Radovan.

Procter and Gamble Alpha, spearheaded by Luz Lopez, Gigi Saluna, Camille Lorenzo, Aisa Yap, Arnel Auditor, Ferdie Insigne, Rommel Ong and Jill Olazo, overpowered Dupont Pioneer Chemicals, 4-1, to complete the list of quarterfinalists in this weeklong event co-presented by Dunlop Slazenger Philippines and sponsored by Quantum Global, Robson-Sportscraft, Ultramax, Lino's Food and Entertainment, and Ratsky's.

Lizardo, Hampac live up to billing

A MEMBER of the RP demonstration team executes a front kick during the opening ceremony.
ROMY HOMILLADA

A COUPLE of most valuable performers in last year's junior competitions of the Samsung Best of the Best taekwondo championships lived up to expectations yesterday by advancing to the junior men's and women's finals at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City.

John Paul Lizardo, a 17-year-old flyweight, and Cathy Jane Hampac, a 16-year-old finweight from Zamboanga, easily disposed of their respective rivals in the semifinals of the tourney organized by the Philippine Taekwondo Association, managed by IMG, sponsored by Samsung, and supported by Philippine Star, Accel, Colours, Kix, Ayala Center and 103.5 K-Lite.

Lizardo, finweight gold medalist last year and 2002 US Open silver winner, scored roundhouse and bullet kicks in the second round en route to a 5-1 victory over Andy Perdigueros of the Negros Tigers.

Hampac banked on swift sidekicks and a tough defense to whip CSA's Mary Abigail Rustria, 4-1.

Lizardo will dispute the crown with Korean Open veteran Giorgio Von de Guzman while Hampac will square off with AUF's Cristina Faye Dagpin.

De Guzman beat General Santos' Emmanuel Sta. Ana, 6-2, while Dagpin toppled MTC's Roshell Ann Lavalan, 3-1.

Three other junior women and four junior men made it to the finals. They are Irene Parker of Clark, Gerrielyn Decatus of SSA, Kathleen Roble of Cagayan de Oro, Juan Ricardo Bernardino of Red Dragon, Billy Joel Corral of Meycauayan, Jeffrey Figueroa of PPC and Nolene Hyn de los Reyes of Zamboanga.

Parker nipped Jessica Joy Ballesteros, 3-2, while Decatus shut out Camille Valencia, 3-0, to arrange a showdown for the flyweight gold.

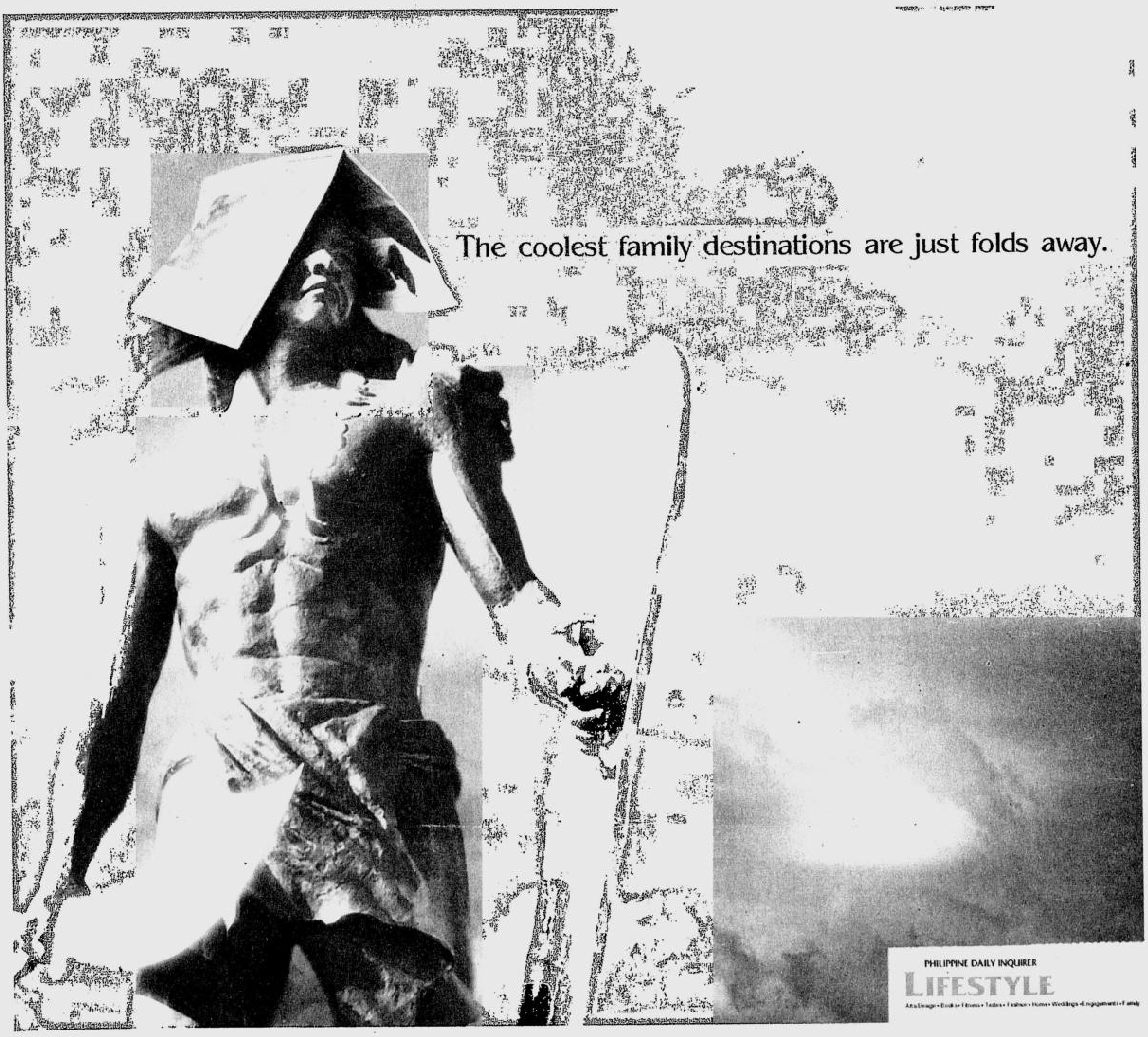
Roble spilled Frances Pagado fo DPS, 2-0, to gain the bantam finals.

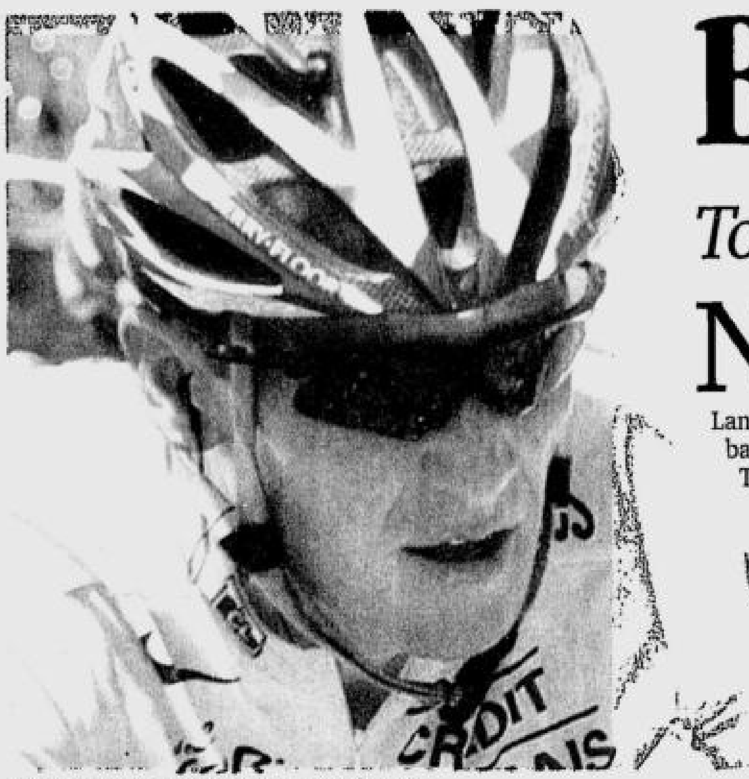
Bernardino defeated Jet Panes, 6-4, while Corral tripped Joseph Van Gacoscos of Ilocos Sur, 3-2, to set up their bantam gold showdown.

SPORTS noodle

ANSWERS
From page A27

1. False (He was born in Mexico, Pampanga)
2. 8-ball (1995)
3. Lucky 13
4. Earl Strickland
5. Red's 9-Ball Open (Houston)
6. Francisco 'Django' Bustamante
7. In his younger days, he dueled several times with an older pool wizard from Bicol who was also named Efren (but not Reyes), so the audience thought it necessary to distinguish the two by giving them monickers: Efren Matanda and Efren Bata.


The coolest family destinations are just folds away.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE



ARMSTRONG: Bracing for tough test. AP

Battle of the Pyrenees

Tough mountain passes to test 'vulnerable' Armstrong

NARBONNE, France—Twenty-one seconds.

The slim lead that Lance Armstrong has as he embarks on the second half of the Tour de France is raising questions about whether the four-time champion can win a record-tying fifth title.

After 11 days of racing, he has just 10 more days to put his usual stranglehold on cycling's premier event. While he has the overall lead after three grueling days in the Alps, the 31-year-old Texan needs to do well in the upcoming Pyrenees to keep rivals at bay.

Second-placed Alexandre Vinokourov is just 21 seconds behind.

"It's perhaps the first time in four years where coming out of the Alps he's left a glimmer of hope," said Christophe Moreau, the top French rider so far, 12th overall.

"It's not what we expected. Maybe he'll deliver a knockout blow in the Pyrenees or be knocked out himself," said the Credit Agricole racer, who is 4:04 behind Armstrong.

Wednesday was a rest day for the 171 riders still in the race.

Armstrong's next big day comes Friday with individual time trials where riders race against the clock. Armstrong, a bronze medalist in the event at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, has already scouted out the hilly 47-kilometer (29.1-mile) course that should suit strong climbers like him.

His coach, Chris Carmichael, says that if all goes well, he expects Armstrong to gain 30 seconds over 1997 Tour winner Jan Ullrich, the silver medalist at Sydney, a minute over American rider Tyler Hamilton and more than two minutes over Spaniards Iban Mayo and Francisco Mancebo.

With those rivals close behind, Armstrong said it "may be the most important time trial I've ever done in the Tour."

Armstrong's hardly had an easy Tour. He battled stomach flu in the weeks before the race, was bruised in a crash on the Tour's second day and struggled Sunday with a faulty brake up the cruel climb over the 2,645-meter (8,728-foot) Col du Galibier.

Armstrong's race could have been over had he not reacted quickly to another crash. His closest rival, Joseba Beloki, skidded right in front of him on sun-melted tarmac Monday, and Armstrong only managed to avoid him by plowing into a field next to the road. Beloki broke his right leg, wrist and elbow, ending his Tour. *AP*

ESPY AWARDS

Serena, Lance athletes of year

KOBE Bryant with wife Vanessa. REUTERS

LOS ANGELES—Serena Williams was honored as female athlete of the year and female tennis player of the year at sports broadcaster ESPN's 11th annual ESPY Awards on Wednesday, a year after she accepted the same trophies on behalf of older sister Venus.

Tiger Woods was male golfer for the fourth consecutive year, giving him a total of 15 awards. He didn't attend the show hosted by comedian Jamie Foxx at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre. He is in England for the British Open, which begins Thursday.

Cyclist Lance Armstrong was chosen male athlete of the year over baseball slugger Barry Bonds, NBA star Tim Duncan and Woods, who had won the last three years. Armstrong is attempting his record fifth Tour de France this month. Three years ago, he was chosen comeback athlete after beating testicular cancer.

Serena Williams recently defeated Venus to win her second straight Wimbledon title and is 40-1 at major tournaments dating to the 2001 French Open. She defeated Venus for the female tennis player award, one of 17 categories decided for the first time by fan votes on the Internet.

Williams was the only double winner during the two-hour show. She beat out Lisa Leslie, Sweden's Annika Sorenstam and Connecticut basketball player Diana Taurasi for the female athlete award, which pits athletes from different sports against each other.

Williams thanked her divorced parents, who didn't attend.

Bonds was chosen major league baseball player for the second consecutive year. Leslie, hobbled by a knee injury, repeated as WNBA player. Sorenstam won her second consecutive award for female golfer.

Gail Devers ended Marion Jones' five-year domination of the female track and field athlete award. Jones' boyfriend, Tim Montgomery, won the men's track award.

The World Series champion Anaheim Angels were chosen best team.

Duncan, who helped the San Antonio Spurs win a championship, was named NBA player, beating out Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal of the Los Angeles Lakers, among others.

Bryant skipped the media gauntlet on the red carpet before the show, but sat in the audience smiling and laughing with his wife, Vanessa.

Prosecutors in Colorado have yet to decide whether to file criminal charges against Bryant, who's been accused of sexually assaulting a 19-year-old woman. *AP*

Tennis star Serena Williams shows off her Female Athlete of the Year trophy at the 2003 ESPY Awards in Los Angeles Wednesday. REUTERS

NBA NOTES

Duncan inks $122-M deal with Spurs

DUNCAN AFP

SAN ANTONIO—Tim Duncan signed a long-term deal Wednesday to remain with the NBA champion San Antonio Spurs, who also got the two-time league MVP some help to fill the void left by David Robinson's retirement.

Duncan reportedly received a $122 million, seven-year deal—the largest allowed under the NBA's collective bargaining agreement. Spurs general manager R.C. Buford declined to confirm details of the contract.

San Antonio also signed free agent center Rasho Nesterovic of Slovenia to a reported $42 million, six-year deal. Wednesday was the first day that free agents could sign contracts.

Duncan didn't attend the news conference and wasn't immediately available for comment.

Duncan became a free agent when he decided June 30 not to exercise a player option in his contract for 2003-04, but never considered leaving the Spurs. *AP*

O'Neal Pacers' costliest player

O'NEAL AP

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—Jermaine O'Neal turned down a chance to join the reigning National Basketball Association champions to become the highest-paid player in the history of the Indiana Pacers.

The 24-year-old forward signed a seven-year contract worth 123 million dollars here Wednesday, the first day free agents could sign deals with NBA clubs.

"We're happy to have Jermaine back as the cornerstone of the franchise," said Pacers president of basketball operations Larry Bird.

"It has been known he wanted to be here and we're looking to building the franchise around him." *AFP*

Unknowns show door to Moya, Grosjean

STUTTGART, Germany—Top-seeded Carlos Moya and Wimbledon semifinalist Sebastien Grosjean were both upset in the second round of the clay-court Mercedes Cup on Wednesday.

Tomas Behrend ousted Moya 7-6(5), 7-6 (2), while Filippo Volandri upset Grosjean 6-2, 6-1.

A former No. 1 in the world, Moya is now No. 7 in the Champions Race, while Behrend is 110th. Behrend had never beaten a top 10 player before.

"This is sensational," Behrend said. "I wasn't nervous at all, I was always just thinking of the next point."

Behrend fired winners from both sides and kept Moya under pressure, coming back from 5-6 in the first set and overcoming a 2-5 deficit in the tiebreaker.

An ace gave him five match points. Moya hit a service winner to save the first but then put a forehand long.

"I had no choice, I had to be aggressive," Behrend said. "Sometimes, it's easier when you play against a higher-ranked player."

Grosjean was seeded fourth, but could not make a quick transition from the Wimbledon grass to the slow red clay in Stuttgart.

Volandri finished last year's Champions Race in 230th place, but has climbed to No. 57 this season. Grosjean is No. 11.

David Ferrer beat another seeded player, No. 16 Ivan Ljubicic, 7-6(3), 6-1. *AP*

Heymans steals 10m gold from Chinese divers

BARCELONA, Spain—Canada's Emilie Heymans took the gold in 10-meter platform diving Wednesday at the World Swimming Championships, upsetting two favored Chinese divers.

Heymans won silver in 10m platform synchronized in the 2000 Olympics and was the gold medalist in the 1999 Pan Am Games on the 10m platform.

She scored 597.45 points to edge silver medalist Lao Lishi of China, who scored 595.56. Fellow Chinese diver Li Na won the bronze with 563.43.

It was Canada's first gold of the championships.

Heymans went into her final dive of the day in third place.

She took a risk, trying a difficult backward-starting 2 1/2 somersault with a 1 1/2 ending twist. But she nailed it, racking up 95.88 points, the highest score of any dive in the final round.

"I didn't know the situation when I came out of the pool," Heymans said. "My coach told me I had a chance of winning. I started getting stressed about how the Chinese would dive. I knew I would get a medal but I didn't think I'd get the gold."

Lao tried the same dive as Heymans—a 3.4 degree of difficulty—but got only 91.80 points. Li tried an easier dive, but slumped to 61.44. *AP*

REUTERS

AMERICAN Michael Phelps, world record holder in the 200 butterfly, works out in preparation for the 10th World Swimming Championships in Barcelona.

Iraqi archers feel like circus act

NEW YORK—Uday Kadhu, a Baghdad car salesman, smiled as he talked about how he and his Iraqi team members were being treated like a circus act here at the World Archery Championships.

"Everyone is looking at us and they all want to talk to us. We don't know why," he said here Wednesday.

"This is the first time the team is here and there is so much attention. I feel like a circus act. We like it." The city where terrorists crashed airplanes into the World Trade Center towers is a candidate for the 2012 Summer Olympics and has made a point of welcoming the delegation from Iraq, now controlled by US military forces.

"People have asked us about the war, but we tell them that we are athletes and we are here to do a job and then leave," said Kadhu, who is competing in the recurve bow section.

Kadhu spoke in near perfect English, which he learned while attending school at the University of Missouri from 1980 to 1984 while his father was studying engineering there.

Kadhu said New Yorkers had made the 11-strong team consisting of four male and three female competitors, aged from 22 to 35, and four support members, feel "very welcome." He would not talk about the war and Iraq's uncertainty leading up to the conflict, but said: "I lost friends—10 to 15. It was a very terrible time for all Iraqis. Your country (Iraq) has been destroyed and nobody wants to see their country destroyed. It was a very difficult time." *AFP*

Orlando sign forward Howard

ORLANDO, Florida—The Orlando Magic signed forward Juwan Howard on Wednesday, hoping they have found a second scoring option behind Tracy McGrady.

Howard, a nine-year veteran, has averaged 17.9 points and 7.5 rebounds in 649 career games with Washington, Dallas and Denver. Last season, he led the Nuggets in scoring (18.4 points per game) and rebounding (7.6 rebounds per game). *AP*

Mourning goes to Nets for $20M

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Alonzo Mourning, who missed the past National Basketball Association season with a kidney disease, signed a four-year contract worth more than 20 million dollars with the New Jersey Nets.

And while Mourning did not officially break the news that star guard Jason Kidd had decided to return to the Nets, he made it clear that only a contender that was keeping Kidd would be a club worthy of his interest. *AFP*

SPORTS

BASEBALL FESTIVAL

RP team bound for Japan

STANDOUTS from the Southridge School in Muntinlupa City and the Marist School of Marikina City will represent the Philippines in the Japanese Baseball Festival set July 19-24 in the cities of Yachimata and Chiba.

Formed by the Philippine Tot Baseball Federation, the Filipino youngsters will be playing against their Japanese counterparts in these cities, according to PTBA president Rodolfo "Boy" Tingzon.

The RP nine was originally scheduled to take part in the 21st World Baseball Federation championships in Edogawa, also in Japan, on July 24-30, but was barred along with teams from some Asian countries because of the recent SARS scare. Also denied participation were China, Singapore, Taiwan and Korea.

"It will be the first time that the country will not be represented in the World Championships in the 39 years of the WBF existence, but we in the PTBF do understand the fears and apprehensions of the organizers and other teams from the USA, Europe and South America on the SARS scare," Tingzon said.

"However, we still have a commitment to our children in providing them avenues to further improve their skills so we are sending them to the Festival as part of our sports and cultural exchange program with the cities of Yachimata and Chiba," he added.

Members of the RP team are Troy Bautista, Jayjay Teruel, Carly Tingzon, Nathan Alaquiros, Kevin Ramos, Mico Macaraeg, Andy Tan, Lloyd Dabigon, Greggy Young and Irin Arrieta.

TACLOBAN RUN WINNERS
The top three finishers in the 5K run of the recent Milo Marathon regional elimination race held in Tacloban, Leyte hoist their trophies. Flanking them are Milo sports executive Pat Goc Ong (left), Leyte Gov. Remedios Padilla and local race organizer Dr. Lucrecio Calo. In front are the other top 10 finishers. The event goes to Lipa City on Sunday.

S. Luzon regional 20K run in Lipa Sunday

CRACK runners from Batangas, Cavite, Quezon and Laguna will dispute this Sunday the top three Southern Luzon slots in the men's and women's divisions for the 27th National Milo marathon set in Manila this October.

Defending champions Noel Ricamunda and Liza Yambao will head the field in the 20K race serving as the fifth leg in the nationwide search for qualifiers to the finals of the country's biggest and oldest road running program.

With many more competing in the 5K fun run and 3K kiddie run, organizers look forward to over 5000 runners when the race starts at 6 a.m. on Sunday with Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos expected to head the list of special guests.

Last Sunday's regional elimination race in Tacloban, Leyte attracted more than 5,400 entries, the biggest in its history and the first time that the field exceeded 5,000 runners.

"We want to show that here in Lipa, we support sports programs like the Milo Marathon which is geared towards involving the youth in sports instead of vices. We received tremendous response from the schools and colleges within the city," said Lipa City Administrator Jun Dijan, who is organizing the event through the Community Affairs Department.

As in other regional races, there will be an inter-school team running competitions in the 5K and 3K distances and a cheering competition open to elementary, high school, and college students. The school with the most number of finishers in the 5K and 3K runs will also get prizes from Milo which is holding the event this year in partnership with Cebu Pacific, Adidas, Bayview Park Hotel, Power Bar, My Globe and the Department of Tourism.

"This will be a good preview of the Metro Manila elimination race where we expect to have the biggest field ever as we will have 4 distances where runners can choose from," said Pat Goc-Ong, Milo Sports executive.

Friendship tilt MOA signed

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission and the City Government of Puerto Princesa formalized their tie-up for the 3rd BIMP-EAGA Friendship Games with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement Tuesday at the PSC Administration Building, Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

PSC Chairman Eric Buhain, Mayor Edward Hagedorn of host Puerto Princesa, presidential assistant for Mindanao Jesus G. Dureza, special Envoy to Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines; Secretary Paul G. Dominguez and PSC commissioner Leon G. Montemayor, who is also project director of the games, attended the MOA signing. PSC commissioners Ambrosio de Luna, William Ramirez and Michael Barredo were also present.

About 500 athletes and officials have confirmed their participation in the 3rd BIMP-EAGA Friendship Games, scheduled Aug. 23-25 with five events: athletics (men and women), football (men), sepak takraw (men), swimming (men and women) and volleyball (women).

SPORTSWATCH

BAP convention set August 2-3 in Aklan

THE COUNTRY'S participation in the Southeast Asian Games and its grassroots program will be the main topics when the Basketball Association of the Philippines holds in National Congress on Aug. 2-3 in Kalibo, Aklan. Also to be held is the BAP General Assembly. Expected to attend are BAP president Tiny Literal, secretary general Graham Lim, deputy secretray general Jun Lavadia, EVP Christian Tan, treasurer Tony Fabico, the regional directors and members of the executive board.

La Salle teams gear up for Berardelli Cup

TEAMS are fortifying their rosters for the 2003 Bro. Dominic Berardelli Cup Alumni Basketball League of La Salle starting Wednesday at the St. Benilde's Gym of La Salle Greenhills. Team R II Builders broke into the championship circle by defeating three-time champion Covenant Team of Gary Valenciano, who along with the 1998 and 2000 champion La Salle Dasma team are favored to figure in the title match this year. For inquiries, call Ludie Bautista of the LSGHAA at tel. 721-2729.

Olivarez makes age group finals twice

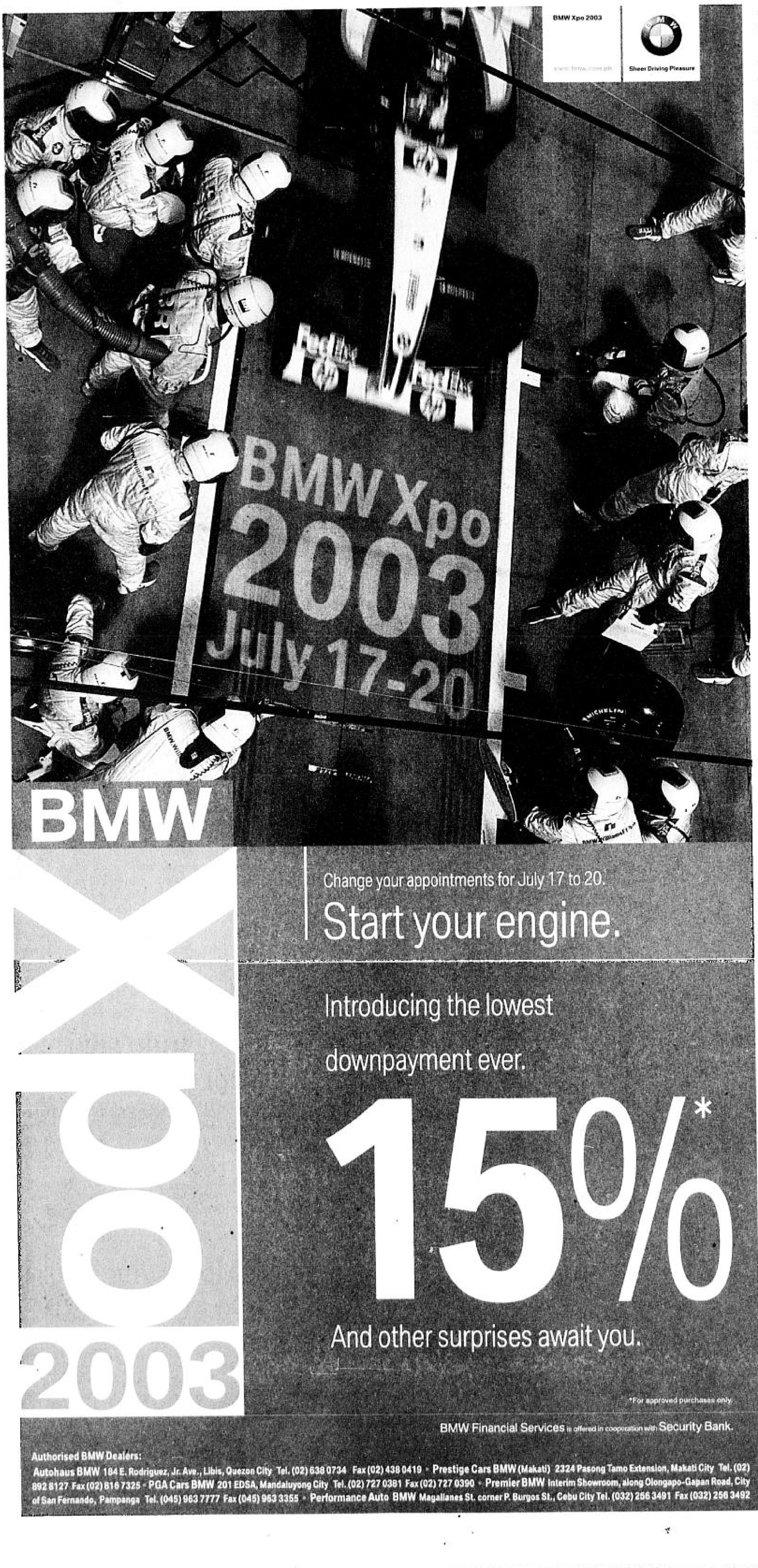
PABLO Olivarez II routed JL Opulencia, 6-4, 6-0, and bested Gerard Ngo, 6-3, 6-4, to barge into the finals of two divisions of the 2003 Olivarez Age Group Tennis Tournament at the Olivarez College Sports Center in Paranaque City. Olivarez, who struggled past San Beda's Marvin Serito 6-2, 1-6, 6-2 last weekend, tangles with Russell Arcilla Jr., who ousted Patrick Arevalo 6-2, 6-4 f or the boys' 14-under class trophy. The Czech Republic-bound Olivarez goes for a double title against RP teammate Arcilla for the boys' 16-under category in the Group-3 Philta sanctioned event supported by Wilson Balls and the Olivarez Group of Companies.

Sundowner golfers down Nasac rivals

POWERHOUSE Sundowner Golf Club swept the individual class and bagged the team title in the First National Social Action Council (Nasac) Chairman's Cup hosted by Defense Secretary and Nasac vice chair Angelo Reyes last Tuesday at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club. Low handicappers Baby Isip, Gerry Gonzales and Bobby Villarosa bannered Sundowner while Honda Cars-Makati and Electrobus-Callaway finished first and second runners up, respectively, in the event sponsored by Motolite-Oriental, Pagcor, PCSO and Electrobus Consolidated-Callaway Golf. Nasac chairman Philip Ella Juico joined POC president Celso Dayrit, DAR Undersecretary Rolly Mangulabnan, Tonyboy Herrera of Callaway and Al Villadolid of FedEx in the ceremonial flight.

West Bound eyes Triple Crown grand slam

WEST BOUND seeks a grand slam in the 2003 Horseman's Cup, the third and final leg of the Triple Crown Championship Series, on Sunday at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite. Winner of the first two legs, West Bound is bidding to become only the ninth ocal galloer to score the sweep since the Triple Crown's inception in 1978. Ace jockey Jeffril Zarate will be riding West Bound, who drew the post position number 7 for the race. West Bound is trying to relive the glory days of his illustrious grandsire—Fair and Square—the first ever winner of the local Triple Crown in 1981.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BUSINESS

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5-month OFW remittances up 9.8%

By Clarissa S. Batino

DOLLARS sent by close to eight million nurses, IT professionals, engineers, domestic helpers and other Filipinos working abroad reached $3.29 billion as of May, up 9.77 percent compared to $2.99 billion the previous year.

In May alone, the amount of remittances rose 13.44 percent to $750.71 million from $661.74 million a year ago and up 7.38 percent from $699.089 million in April, documents from from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

The level of remittances has started to pick up from the slowdown during the first few months when prospects of employment abroad became less attractive due to uncertainties caused by the US-Iraq war, which was followed by the outbreak of the killer Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus.

While both concerns have eased, deployment this year remained lower compared to 2002, according to the labor department.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said he was hopeful that dollar inflow from offshore workers would continue to reach new highs this year despite a slowdown in growth compared to 2002 when remittances were growing at double-digit levels each month.

The observed slowdown had prompted the central bank to assume a flat growth in OFW remittances this year in drafting its external payments target. Dollar remittances form part of the country's current account, a big component of the balance-of-payments position reflecting movements in trade.

OFW remittances are counted on to boost the supply of dollars in the spot market and help keep the peso stable.

Last year, overseas workers sent home $6.93 billion, the highest level of OFW remittance in history although the number was of the government's target by about $1 billion.

Compared to 2001, dollar remittances last year grew 15 percent from $6.03 billion.

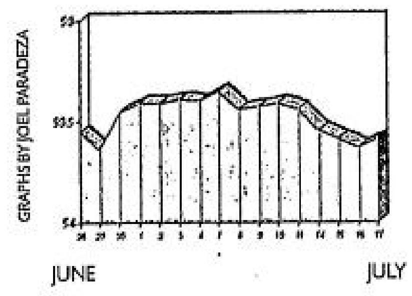
Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said that as of the first week of July, deployment was lower by about 4 percent compared to the previous year when new hires and rehires who left the country reached 495,000.

Sto. Tomas said her department was targeting to deploy a million Filipinos abroad. In 2002, the POEA said the level of freshly hired and rehired reached 891,908 against 867,599 the previous year.

Foreign exchange inflow from overseas workers comprises nearly 85 percent of the country's gross earnings.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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As of 5 p.m., July 17, 2003

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STOCK MARKET

Stocks up slightly

SHARES closed mildly higher in last minute buying yesterday, buoyed by gains in heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. on expectations of an income recovery in the second half.

Traders said estimates of a lower-than-targeted budget deficit in the first half also encouraged investors, as a controlled fiscal shortfall would lead to lower interest rates and benefit corporates.

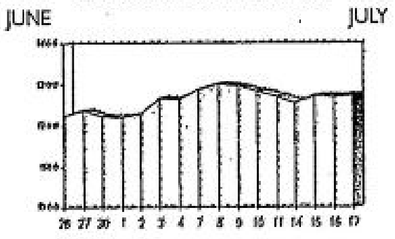
The Philippine stock index added 3.87 points or 0.3 percent to end at 1,274.20 points. Traders said the market was likely to retain a positive bias today.

"We're just bouncing, consolidating for the next big move," said Allan Araullo, vice president of Regina Capital Development.

He added reports of a lower-than-target budget deficit in the first six months "reinforced the market's optimism that the deficit is in check and interest rates would come down."

Reuters

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Megaworld joins ₱5.86-B Boni dev't project

By Doris C. Dumlao

ALLIANCE Global Group Inc., a publicly listed company chaired by McDonald's Philippine franchise holder George Yang, has signed up Megaworld Corp. as a 50-50 joint venture partner in the development of the 25-hectare Lawton Parkway inside the former Fort Bonifacio military camp.

The Bases Conversion Development Authority recently awarded development rights to the Parkway to AGI after the latter outbid property giants Ayala Land Inc. and Robinsons Land Corp. AGI has committed to transform the property into a P5.86-billion residential, commercial and mixed-use complex over the next seven years.

AGI and Megaworld yesterday disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange that they signed a memorandum of understanding to jointly undertake the development of the property.

"Megaworld is taking part in the development of the 25-hectare project consistent with its favorable view of the fundamentals and outlook of the Philippine real estate industry," Megaworld treasurer Francisco Canuto said.

"As one of the country's foremost property developers, Megaworld is well-positioned to undertake community developments on a massive scale designed to benefit a truly wide client base," he added.

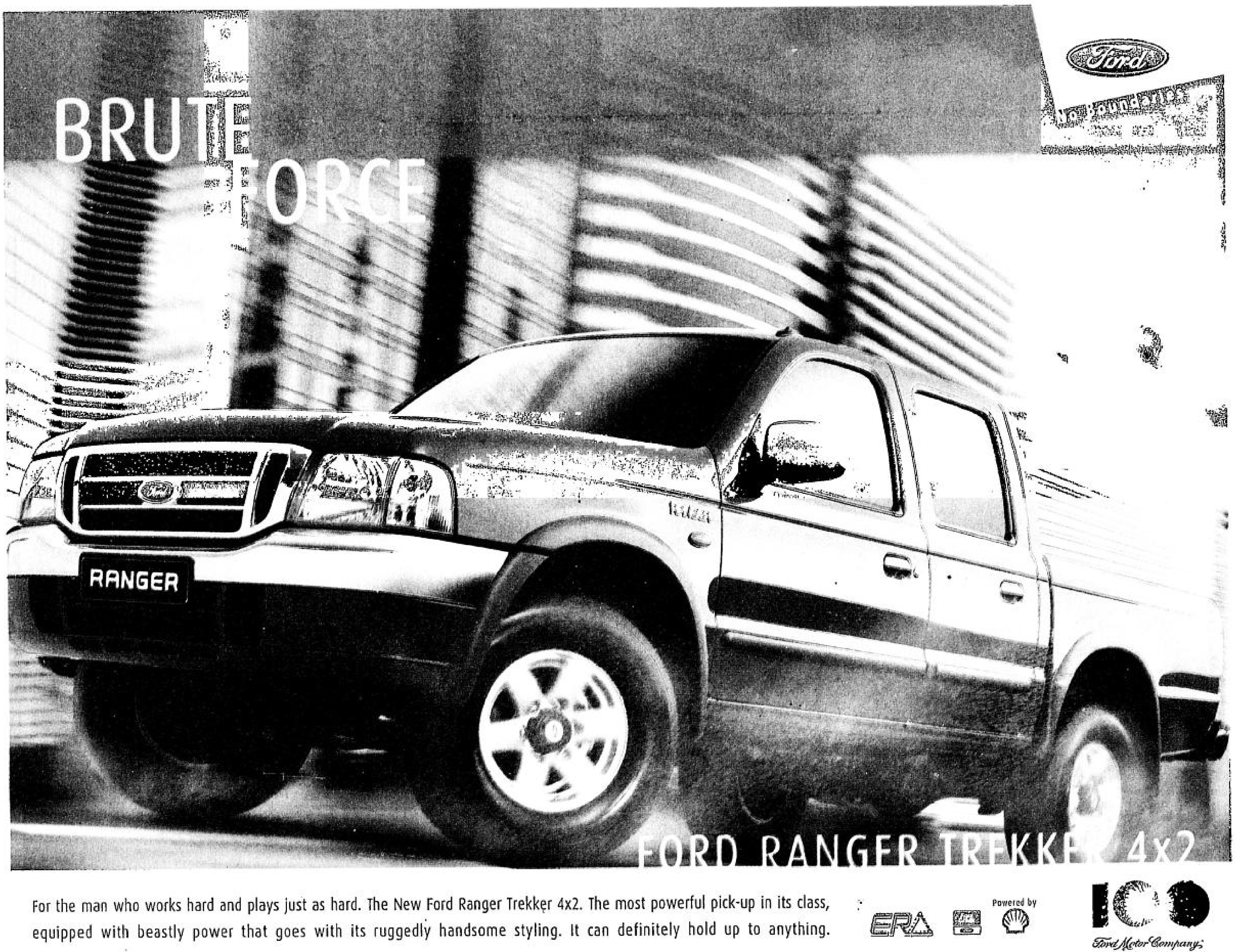
It will be Megaworld's second venture in the Fort Bonifacio property after Forbeswoods Heights, a six-building residential project with businessman Carlos Rufino's Bonifacio West Development Corp.

AGI spokesperson Dina Inting said her company had enlisted Megaworld as a partner "on the strength of its track record as a foremost developer of large-scale, mixed-use communities that speaks well of its ability to add value to the 25-hectare project."

The deal gives Megaworld a free hand in the planning, design and construction of the project. It will also oversee, supervise and manage the development and act as the exclusive marketing agent.

AGI's Yang himself is a stockholder and board director of Megaworld, which is controlled

MEGAWORLD/ B2



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Economic growth seen exceeding 4% in 3rd quarter

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE DOMESTIC economy will likely grow beyond 4 percent in the third quarter on the back of improved agricultural and industrial production, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said yesterday.

"In the third quarter, we really expect to see some recovery especially in agriculture, and hopefully exports and manufacturing," Neri told reporters at the launching of the Knowledge Network Networking for Productivity or K-Emporium project.

He added that growth in the third quarter would definitely be better than the 4-percent expansion he was hoping for in the second quarter, when the economy was hit by the war in Iraq and the regional outbreak of the killer virus SARS.

"Even in agriculture, the projection in the second quarter was difficult because planting was delayed. The projection is that agriculture will be boosted in the third quarter," he said.

"Exports were a little bit slow (in the second quarter) but I was assured by the exporters and the DTI (Department of Trade and Industry) that orders were well on their way in the second half and that the DTI will meet its 5-percent export target. The electronics sector also says it will meet the 10 percent (growth) target," Neri said.

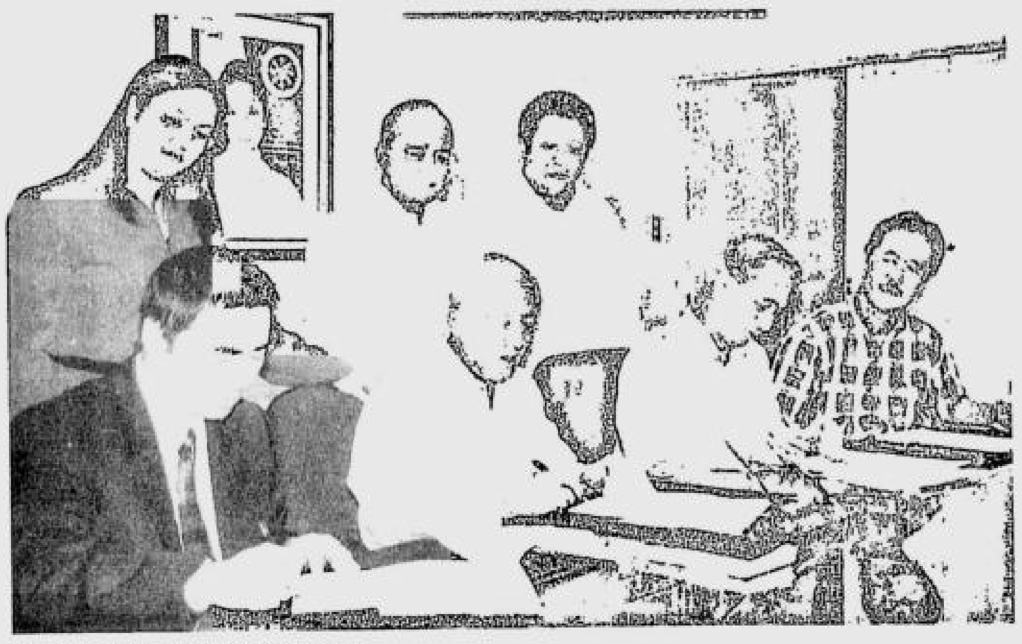
The government's improving fiscal performance will also help boost consumption by freeing up liquidity to fuel the economy, he said.

"We are encouraged by tax collections and the pattern of expenditures so I think we can be a little less tight in the second half. There's a little room for spending so maybe we can pay our contractors and suppliers a little sooner and hopefully, that will do the pump priming for the economy," Neri said.

He admitted that the government's fiscal constraints have resulted in a tight payment scheme which, in turn, curtailed spending in the countryside.

"Within this month or next month, once DBM (Department of Budget and Management) starts loosening up payments, there will be more liquidity and spending will improve," he said.

For the rest of the year, he said the government would still try to hit the 4.2-5.2 percent GDP target. GDP refers to the total amount of goods and services produced by the economy in a given period.



SM CITY CLARK PROJECT
Clark Development Corp. president Emmanuel Angeles (2nd from left) signs a lease agreement with Premier Central Inc. president Henry Sy Jr. (left) to pave the way for the construction of SM City Clark inside the special economic zone. Under the agreement, PCI will invest an initial P500 million on a 22-hectare lot inside the zone and will sell tax-paid items once the SM project operates. With Angeles and Sy are CDC executive vice president Victor Jose Luciano (seated, 3rd from left) and CDC director Jesus Nicdao.

Group urges pacing of Clark liberalization

By Michelle V. Remo

THE FAIR Trade Alliance has urged the government to go slow on its initiative to fully liberalize the Clark Special Economic Zone in light of the "adverse" impact of the entry of Federal Express and United Parcel Service on local cargo handlers and forwarders.

FTA lead convenor Wigberto Tañada said in an interview that the government should not hastily open Clark to foreign firms without making a careful assessment of the likely effects of liberalization. He proposed that the local cargo industry first be consulted before committing to any proposals to open Clark.

"The entry of Fedex and UPS alone has already hurt local cargo handlers and forwarders, what more would happen if Clark is fully liberalized?" he said. Local cargo handlers and forwarders claimed to be "very much affected" by the entry of Fedex and UPS, he said without elaborating.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, a known advocate for Clark's liberalization, said the government initiative was aimed at boosting job opportunities at Clark. He said the entry of foreign players in the area could spur growth of related businesses.

"Our objective here is to take advantage of the business opportunities, considering that Clark is at a strategic location and is likely to attract investments," Neri said in an interview.

He said the bottom line of the government's efforts to open Clark was job creation.

For his part, Tañada said the FTA was not closed to the idea of opening Clark. However, he said local players should have a say on whatever commitments the government would give regarding the liberalization of Clark.

Gov't to spend more in 2nd half

By Clarissa S. Batino

TEN months before the presidential elections, the Macapagal administration has vowed to spend more in the remaining months of the year after containing the budget deficit in the first half to P79.6 billion or P22.6 billion less than the P102.2-billion target for the period.

The deficit in June stood at P4.2 billion against P12.2 billion a year ago and less than a third of the P15-billion ceiling for the month.

"We will see a calibrated relaxation of tight spending moving forward. We need to move the projects that have not been moving," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said.

He added that the government would use the P22.6-billion leeway to spend more in the second half and help prime the economy.

Revenues in the first six months reached P306.3 billion, up 14.9 percent from last year's and 7.3 percent ahead of the P285.5-billion target for the period. Spending stood at P385.9 billion against a ceiling of P387.8 billion for the first semester.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said her department would be more lenient in disbursing funds to pay contractors and settle other obligations.

Since April, Boncodin said the government had been releasing funds only to pay state workers but crimped on other items after expenditures exceeded the target in the first quarter.

Megaworld ...

From page B1

by tycoon Andrew Tan.

The MOU provides that AGI and Megaworld would equally share in financing the development of the project and in the payment of all guaranteed revenues to the BCDA.

AGI offered a present value of P2.74 billion for the property, inclusive of P942 million in upfront cash payment while the secured annual cash flows would reach P1.6 billion.

The BCDA said AGI's entry in the former military camp would complement other developments in the nearby 150-ha Bonifacio Global City, whose controlling stake was sold by Metro Pacific Corp. recently to an Ayala-Campos joint venture.

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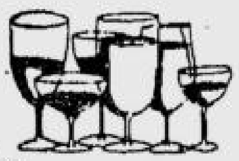


Victor C. Agustin

IT looks like San Miguel chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. is not only testing the political waters, but is actually preparing a financial network for a possible presidential campaign.

According to the grapevine, his congressman-son Mark has formed a core group of two-dozen businessmen/entrepreneurs who will help Danding solely in "information dissemination" within the business/corporate/financial sectors.

The key movers of this group include the two former chair of the Philippine Stock Exchange, Harry Liu and Trina Kalaw, construction magnate Philip Cruz, Cagayan de Oro businessman Buddy Roa, as well as TonyBoy Cojuangco's PLDT assistant, Al Tengco.

The group is apparently different from the heavy-hitters invited by the SGV Group during a recent dinner for Danding, in that the yet unnamed group of Liu-Kalaw-Cruz-Roa-Tengco will simply concentrate on propaganda work, leaving the messy task of fund-raising to others.

As envisioned, the yet-unnamed group will try to recruit fellow businessmen and business executives pyramid style; each one will recruit 10 others and each recruit subsequently recruiting and be responsible for 10 more, all in the hope that the growing chain will help soften Danding's Marcos/Pacman image.

Of the group, Cruz and Roa are original Danding boys, having supported The Boss in his failed presidential bid in the 1992 elections.

Incidentally, the 1992 supporters also include corporate lawyer F. Arthur Villaraza, now counsel to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

According to the grapevine, Villaraza has since had a falling out with Danding, with the powerful Villaraza law firm, like Roco Kapunan, the favored law firm during the Soriano heydays in San Miguel Corp., failing to win any retainer/consultancy business from the country's biggest food and beverage conglomerate.

Subic's killer gasoline

BMW Philippines sent a statement denying that its fleet of Bimmers suffered engine knocks when they gassed up inside Subic Freeport zone, as was reported in this column July 9.

"Of the 13 BMW vehicles we used during that time (Feb. 24-28 clinic), not a single one suffered from any 'knocks and pings' due to contaminated fuel or otherwise," the BMW statement said. "Furthermore, we have not had any report of a BMW user in the Subic area whose car had 'conked out' after filling up his tank in a Subic gasoline station."

Strange denial, since even BMW dealer Prestige Cars of Makati has acknowledged the Subic gas problem.

"The roughness in the engine could be caused by the quality of the fuel at Subic as observed by BMW Philippines when doing a car clinic there a few months ago," a concerned Prestige Cars president Jose Alvarez Jr. wrote to a BMW owner. The BMW owner sent his car to Prestige for service after the 318 developed a "groaning sound" after filling its tank, apparently from the same gas station.

"All cars returned with a knocking sound after having used fuel from Subic," Alvarez added.

The good news is that the knocking sound stopped altogether after the car's fuel tank was emptied and replaced with non-Subic gasoline.

No-brainers at NTC

WHEN God spread intelligence on these islands, the heavenly pearls of wisdom may have actually bounced off from some thick skulls at the National Telecommunication Commission.

If you will recall, the homeowners' association at the BSA Towers in Legaspi Village, the condominium with the triangular steel tower fronting the new Greenbelt, has been fighting off attempts by former Batangas Gov. Antonio Leviste, a.k.a. the husband of Loren Legarda, from installing and operating a communications tower atop their condominium.

It was actually the homeowners' association, after wresting operational control of the building from developer Luke Roxas, who tipped off the NTC about the existence of the illegal transmitter/communication equipment on the building's rooftop.

What do you know? Instead of thanking the homeowners for their civic duty, the NTC now turned the table around and formally charged the BSA homeowners' association for the illegal operation of the radio station!

In addition, the NTC has also accused the homeowners' association of illegal possession of radio equipment, the same equipment that the residents themselves turned over to the NTC investigators.

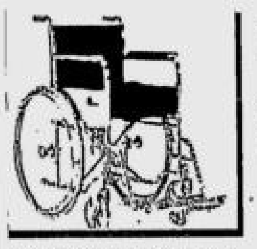
If you doubt this tale, go and ask NTC re-

COCKTALES/B4

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week July 15, 2003	Last Week July 08, 2003
Bond Fund - Peso	1.09959	1.09587
Managed Fund - Peso	1.11385	1.11620
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.00280	0.99230

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

IMPORTED WHEELCHAIR



COMFORT WHEELCHAIR

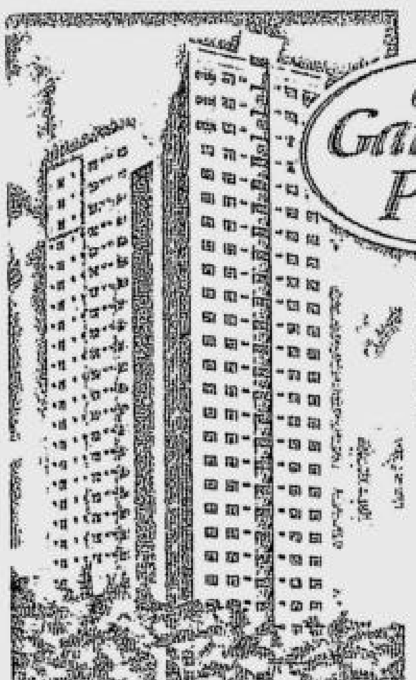
- Fixed armrests
- Frame coated in dark blue color
- 8"/24" solid wheels

STAR MILLS PAMPANGA
2nd Flr. (45) 636-3513

SM MANILA
5TH FLR. 484-1471

FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

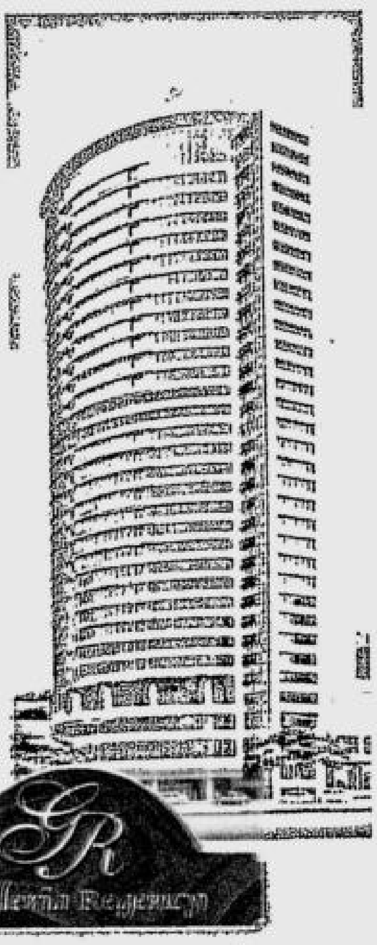
SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., Bldg. A 635-04 36	SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418 75-40	SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453 3326
CEBU 262-32-39	SM SOUTHMALL Basement 802 15-65	ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061



One Gateway Place
28-Storey Residential Condominium
EDSA corner Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City
BESIDE Soon to Open
ROBINSONS METRO GATEWAY MALL
HLURB License To Sell No.: 07225

Bloomfields
QUEZON CITY
House and Lot Packages
Quirino Highway, Novaliches, Q.C.
BESIDE ROBINSONS PLACE NOVALICHES
AND BIG R SUPERCENTER
HLURB License To Sell No.: 03979

ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF LIVING BESIDE THE MALL



Galleria Regency
33-Storey Residential Condominium
Ortigas corner ADB, Ortigas Center, Q.C.
BESIDE ROBINSONS GALLERIA
HLURB License To Sell No.: 01035
TURN-OVER DECEMBER 2003
SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR CASH BUYERS

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38-Storey Residential Condominium
Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila
BESIDE ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA
HLURB License To Sell No.: 97-12-3208
SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR CASH BUYERS

80% SOLD
One Adriatico PLACE
38-Storey Residential Condominium
Adriatico corner Pedro Gil, Ermita, Manila
BESIDE ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA
HLURB License To Sell No.: 07206

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GETTING ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY

SMC to put up ₱7-B recycling plant

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. is set to invest P6.7 billion to put up a recycling plant that will produce environment-friendly packaging materials.

In a statement yesterday, SMC said the main processing plant would be put up in San Fernando, Pampanga, with conversion operations in Batangas, Cebu, Davao, Misamis Oriental and Laguna. Commercial operations are scheduled to start in May 2004.

"The project will utilize state-of-the-art technology approved by the US and European Food and Drug Administrations to process post-consumer plastic bottles and convert these into food-grade packaging materials and containers," SMC said.

"Aside from plastic recycling facilities, the project also includes facilities designed for the fabrication of plastic closures," it said.

Collection of plastic bottles will be conducted nationwide primarily through the support of existing plastic bottle collectors.

"The project will create jobs for local residents and opportunities from industries that would provide services for the collection, processing and conversion operations of the project," it said.

In the meantime, the company was expecting to post a 10-percent expansion in revenue from beer sales for the month of June to P2.1 billion from a year ago, allowing the division's first half earnings to hit the P15-billion mark.

A source privy to SMC's operations disclosed that based on trade data from dealers, beer sales continued to be brisk for the month of June following the company's aggressive sales and marketing initiatives.

The source said SMC could sustain the double-digit growth rate in the beer business "due to favorable sales trending and strong product off-take."

"The division's profit performance is seen to remain favorable given its high operating leverage," the source said.

Income from operations could expand significantly due to the business' robust sales performance and favorable production costs mainly on account of stable raw material prices, the source added.

The company achieved a 29-percent growth in operating income at P2.79 billion for the period January to May 2003 from a year ago.

SSS posts improved first-half performance

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SOCIAL Security System, a state-controlled pension fund for the private sector, yesterday reported an improved performance in the first half of the year as a result of a one percentage point increase in the rate of members' contributions starting March.

In a press briefing yesterday, SSS president and chief executive Corazon de la Paz said the gap between contribution collection and benefit pay-out in the first half of this year narrowed down to P1 billion from P2.4 billion in the same period last year.

Dela Paz said the first semester collection of members' contributions increased 12.13 percent to P18.77 billion from P16.74 billion in the same period last year. Benefits payment showed a mere 3.2 percent increase to P19.77 billion from P19.16 billion.

"The amount collected from contributions still lagged behind the total payment of benefits, but the gap is closing. It means recovery," Dela Paz said.

However, she said there would be a need to increase the rate of contributions further when the contributions-benefits gap widened anew.

Prior to the one percentage point increase in the rates of contributions, government consultants had estimated that the SSS fund would be totally exhausted by 2015 and, therefore, no benefit payments could be made starting that year.

SSS deputy actuary Rizaldy Capulong said that with the one percentage point increase in the rate of contributions from 8.4 percent to 9.4 percent, the life of the fund was extended by two to three years.

SSS officials also disclosed that the government financial institution's first half net income rose to P1.8 billion from P1.16 billion in the same period last year. Payments made by the National Home Mortage and Finance Corp. helped boost the fund's financial performance.

Dela Paz said the SSS would continue to focus this year on improving collections.

The fund has targeted at least P42 billion in collections this year.

The SSS also intends to improve the procedure in liquefying real estate holdings, which have been increasing as some delinquent employers have been paying their arrears in kind.

In the meantime, an SSS official said the fund's investment income reached P5.3 billion in the first half of this year or lower than last year's P5.7 billion due to the decline in Treasury bill rates this year.

Making it big with authentic Ilonggo cuisine

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SUCCESS STORY

SEAFOOD lovers in Iloilo, Cebu and Manila must consider themselves fortunate that Iloilo couple Ross and Marina Gorriceta's previous business ventures did not do as well as they envisioned. Or else, they would not be able to enjoy the gastronomic delights provided by restaurant chain Marina Sugba, Talaba, Atbp.

The Gorriceta couple went into farming in the early '70s in Iloilo but they were limited to just two harvests a year. Realizing that it was not sustainable, they shifted to construction in the 1980s. This too encountered problems because it was capital intensive and heavily reliant on government contracts.

They changed gears again in 1984 and went into rice milling but this too was abandoned because of its seasonality.

Final choice

Ross and Marina then stumbled upon the idea of going into the restaurant business in 1987 when they got a piece of prime property in the middle of Iloilo.

The couple's son RP said the property was originally intended for a residential project.

"But my parents noticed that beach side eateries were popular in Iloilo at that time. Since these were not so safe to go to at night, they decided to put up something like it within the city," says Ross and Marina's son RP.

Marina opened its doors to the Iloilo crowd in October 1987 and its serious take on bringing out authentic Iloilo cuisine made it a popular hangout in the city. The family also had the advantage of having direct supplies of fresh seafood such as oysters and fish, allowing it to serve fresh food at lower prices, compared with those of its competitors.

"They really had no prior experience in the food business so everything they know they learned through the school of hard knocks," RP says.

New grounds

From the first Marina, the chain expanded into the food courts in Iloilo malls, bringing its network to five in the province. It later broke ground in Cebu where it now has four outlets, including one in Ayala Center, two in SM malls and one in Lahug City.

It was only this year that Ross and Marina gave their children RP and Roland the go-ahead to bring the Marina concept to the Metro Manila market, which is on the lookout for authentic Ilonggo cuisine, such as buckets full of oysters and grilled fish, particularly the popular Managat (sea bass).

The first Marina in Manila along Amethyst Lane in the Ortigas business district was opened in June 2002, followed by that in Pearl Drive in 2003. The third Metro Manila branch was put up along Jupiter Street in Makati City in May this year.

RP Gorriceta and Marina's fresh and succulent seafoods.

Target market

"We are going after the broad segment of working professionals, as well as families who desire quality and reasonably priced Filipino food," RP says.

He adds that his group tries to make the restaurant as Ilonggo as possible by rotating the cooks every three months to make sure that they do not change the way they prepare their food by becoming too exposed to a different market.

RP added that Marina has come up with a logistics system that allowed it to fly in its produce from the different farms in Iloilo and the rest of the Panay islands to Manila. It even brings in lechon twice a week to give in to the popular demand.

Ilonggos and non-Ilonggos alike have flocked to the Marina restaurants. The warm reception of the market has encouraged the Gorriceta brothers to continue expansion in Metro Manila, with plans afoot to put up branches in Quezon City and Alabang.

"Our competitive advantage over the others is our ability to get supplies directly from sources and the flavor of our food. We intend to keep it that way. We want to be able to continue shipping our products as fresh as possible and at the lowest possible prices," RP says.

3 groups keen on buying SSS' 26% stake in Equitable PCI

AT LEAST three groups have expressed interest in acquiring the Social Security System's 26-percent stake in Equitable PCI Bank, the country's third largest lender.

In a briefing yesterday, SSS president and chief executive Corazon de la Paz said these groups offered to buy the Equitable PCI Bank stake at close to prevailing market price.

De la Paz, however, said the SSS was not interested in selling the stake at such levels given the cost at which it acquired the said shares.

The SSS became a stakeholder of the bank when it joined the then Equitable Banking Corp., controlled by the Go family, and the Government Service Insurance System in buying PCIBank for P31.9 billion. The two pension funds contributed P7.5 billion each to the consortium.

At present, the SSS owns 26 percent of Equitable PCIBank while the GSIS holds a 12-percent stake. The Go family has roughly 30 percent.

The SSS acquired its stake in the bank for P97 per share but this fell dramatically in 2000 when the bank was linked to the impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada.

The bank suffered massive withdrawals forcing it to borrow P30 billion from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in liquidity assistance. The entire amount was fully paid in 2001.

In the first quarter of this year, Equitable PCIBank posted a profit of P264 million, 119.2 percent higher than the comparative level last year.

Elena R. Torrijos

PPA net income hits P920.6M

BUOYED by higher wharfage and a favorable exchange rate, the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) surpassed its income targets in the first four months of the year. From January to April, its net income reached P920.67 million, higher than the target of P834.02 million.

Unaudited income figures also showed that the four-month net income was higher than the P918.55 million in profit posted in the same period last year.

"Despite the difficult environment because of the SARS scare, we are fortunate to experience higher wharfage income due to better port operations across all areas," PPA general manager Alfonso Cusi said.

Cargo traffic improved by 8.61 percent with a total 47.91 million metric tons (MMT) of cargoes handled from January to April against the 44.11 MMT in the same period last year. In particular, containerized cargo rose by 8.64 percent to 1.09 million TEUs as of April.

Shipcalls were also higher at 91,940 during the four-month period from 88,489 last year and so was the volume of passengers which increased by 8.55 percent to 15.862 million from January to April compared to the 14.612 million during the same period last year.

Cocktales

From page B3

gional director Gilbert Ramirez, the signatory to the NTC complaint against the "respondent" BSA Tower Condominium Corp.

Heard through the grapevine

A CONCERNED Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis has summoned Insular Life to explain the financial viability of its various self-liquidating income/endowment plans, amid policyholders' complaints that Insular Life is asking plan holders to cough up three to four more years of additional payments to cover Insular Life's real estate/stock market investment losses.

A meeting between Malinis and an Insular Life official was scheduled yesterday afternoon. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

INTEREST RATES

July 17, 2003- MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 17-Jul-03	MART1 16-Jul-03
1 Month	6.2714	6.2714
3 Months	6.2857	6.3446
6 Months	7.2696	7.2893
1 Year	7.8687	7.866
2 Years	8.7667	8.8333
3 Years	9.4467	9.4696
4 Years	9.965	9.9683
5 Years	10.1903	10.2233
7 Years	11.0383	11.0533
10 Years	11.4208	11.4283
20 Years	11.9492	11.9642
25 Years	12.36	12.3717

SOURCE : MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 17, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19.25	19	19	120,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48	47.5	48	252,400
China Banking Corp.	645	645	620	645	4,060
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34	34.5	34	34.5	119,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31	31	31	18,000
Philippine National Bank	24.75	24.75	24	24.5	168,500
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	53,600
Security Bank Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.5	17.75	6,047,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	21.5	21.5	21.25	21.25	19,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.6	1.38	1.52	1,357,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	5,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1420	1450	1420	1450	1,300
Pci Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.18	1.48	1.16	1.36	10,700,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1050	1050	1050	1050	510
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.75	22.25	21.75	22.25	22,100
Diversified Fin. Network	2.12	2.12	2.1	2.1	66,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.69	0.72	0.69	0.72	4,600,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	705	705	700	705	15,860
Ipeople Inc.	0.8	0.85	0.8	0.85	210,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.025	0.027	0.025	0.027	5,500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.1	3.15	3.1	3.15	7,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.57	5,220,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	555	575	550	575	329,360
Ivantage Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.43	660,000
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	3,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.5	12.75	12.25	12.5	1,181,900
Manila Electric Co. B	18.25	18.25	18	18	1,815,500
Petron Corp.	2.18	2.32	2.16	2.32	12,970,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.93	0.96	0.93	0.96	5,020,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.44	156,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.85	2.95	2.8	2.95	465,000
William.Gothong & Aboitiz	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	12,000
Construction & Other Related Products					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.38	0.38	2,040,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.6	3.6	100,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	4,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4	4	4	4	6,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	183,500
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	60,000
San Miguel Corp. A	52	52	51.5	52	227,400
San Miguel Corp. B	60	60	59	60	69,400
Universal Robina Corp.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	55,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.9	4.9	4.85	4.85	13,595,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	233,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	5,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.037	0.037	0.034	0.034	4,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	130,000
APC Group Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	1,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.96	2	1.96	2	70,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	120,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.69	0.72	0.68	0.71	16,240,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	500,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	63,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17	17.75	16.75	17.25	956,500
Ionics Inc.	1.36	1.7	1.36	1.7	4,814,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	95,000
Jollville Holdings Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
Keppel Holdings B	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	50,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.74	0.77	0.74	0.77	4,980,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.34	2,420,000
Music Corp.	0.41	0.46	0.41	0.46	18,010,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	80,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	300,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.35	0.3	0.35	510,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	1,000,000
Pryce Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	600,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.5	15	14.5	14.75	103,100
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	1,100,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	40,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	290,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	220,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22	22.5	22	22.5	146,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	2,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	2,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10	10	10	10	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6	5.9	5.9	5,752,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.185	0.205	0.185	0.195	15,600,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.235	0.25	5,480,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.14	8,918,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	50,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.15	0.155	0.135	0.155	6,920,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	400,000
Primex Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	20,000
SM Development Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	8,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6	5.9	6	2,878,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	32,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	1,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	4,000,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	700,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.013	15,500,000
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	27,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	17,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0034	0.0032	0.0034	22,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	4,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	20,000

DISCLOSURES

JG Summit Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 6, 4 p.m. at the Amorsolo Ballroom of Manila Galleria Suites, Pasig City.

* * *

MIRIAM Molina resigned as independent director of C&P Homes Inc. Joan Calabig was elected to replace her. Marcelino Mendoza and Jerylle Luz Quismundo resigned as directors and were replaced by Gemma Santos and Elizabeth Kalaw.

* * *

UNIVERSAL Rightfield Property Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Aug. 1 to Sept. 12.

* * *

FIRST Abacus Financial Holdings Corp. moved its offices to 2902-D East Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

* * *

PHILIP Brodett was appointed compliance officer of Philcomsat Holdings Corp. while Johnny Tan was appointed internal auditor. Luis Lokin Jr., Enrique Locsin, Oliverio Laperal and Brodett are members of the nomination committee. Compensation and remuneration committee members are Benito Araneta, Manuel Nieto Jr. and Lourdes Africa while members of the audit committee are Ronaldo Salonga, Manuel Andal and Araneta.

* * *

THE UNIWIDE Group of Companies, through a memorandum of agreement, transferred its Avenida and Libis properties to Bank of the Philippine Islands under dacion en pago arrangement.

* * *

YOLANDA Reyno resigned as vice chair and director of Manila Jockey Club Inc. She was replaced by Alfonso Reyno III, who was also elected director.

* * *

ACTIVE Alliance Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 18, 2 p.m. at the Function Room of Subic Bay Yacht Club, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Olongapo City.

Compiled by Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

July 17, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.892061	1.000000	53.602000
Japan	Yen	0.007550	0.008463	0.453600
United Kingdom	Pound	1.423550	1.595800	85.538100
Hongkong	Dollar	0.114378	0.128218	6.872700
Switzerland	Franc	0.648252	0.726691	38.952100
Canada	Dollar	0.643437	0.721293	38.662700
Singapore	Dollar	0.507863	0.569314	30.516400
Australia	Dollar	0.585803	0.656685	35.199600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.366335	2.652661	142.187900
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.237877	0.266660	14.293500
Brunei	Dollar	0.506421	0.567698	30.429700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000109	0.000122	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021443	0.024038	1.288500
UAE	Dirham	0.242876	0.272264	14.593900
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.121000	60.087800
Argentina	Peso	0.322044	0.361011	19.350900
Brazil	Real	0.311365	0.349040	18.709200
Denmark	Kroner	0.134551	0.150832	8.084900
India	Rupee	0.019317	0.021654	1.160700
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.234784	0.263193	14.107700
Mexico	New Peso	0.086073	0.096488	5.171900
New Zealand	Dollar	0.521856	0.585001	31.357200
Norway	Kroner	0.120079	0.134609	7.215300
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015479	0.017352	0.930100
South Africa	Rand	0.114992	0.128906	6.909600
Korea	Won	0.000757	0.000849	0.045500
Sweden	Kroner	0.109025	0.122217	6.551100
Syria	Pound	0.021240	0.023810	1.276300
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025947	0.029087	1.559100
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000559	0.000627	0.033600

Fed vows to fight deflation

WASHINGTON—Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan vowed to fight the deflation menace to the end, even if he has to use extraordinary means.

"It will continue to engage our attention until it is clear that it can be fully taken off the table," Greenspan told lawmakers on the Senate banking committee.

The Federal Open Market Committee trimmed the federal funds target rate three weeks ago by a quarter of a percentage point to a 1958 low of one percent to stave off deflation and boost growth.

The 77-year-old central bank chief rectified that impression when he returned to Congress Wednesday.

"I wasn't aware I took anything off the table," Greenspan said of his earlier remarks.

"I trust we'll never have to engage in such policies, but we are in a position to know what to do and how to do it if the occasion ever arises."

GREENSPAN

Deflation, or a lasting decline in the general level of prices, had not been a major concern when prices were rising at rate of 5 percent, 3 percent or even 2 percent, Greenspan said.

"But in the last six to nine months, the rate of inflation has fallen dramatically in this country," he added.

The drop in inflation had led Federal Reserve policymakers to begin examining ways to address the problem, even though the chances of deflation taking hold were "remote."

"If it occurs, it is a very major event and even though its probability is small, the size of the problem, should it occur, is sufficiently large to have engaged our attention," Greenspan said.

The Federal Reserve chairman was addressing lawmakers for the second day after presenting a twice-yearly monetary policy review.

He spoke as latest data showed that a modest uptick in often-volatile energy and food costs helped push up consumer prices by 0.2 percent in June from May, and by 2.1 percent from a year ago.

But if energy and food costs are stripped out, core consumer prices were unchanged in June alone, and were up only 1.5 percent when compared to June of last year. *AFP*

Citigroup's Weill steps down

NEW YORK—Sandy Weill, the Wall Street dealmaker who helped establish Citigroup as the world's largest financial services firm, is stepping down as chief executive, the firm said Wednesday.

Weill, 70, will remain chairman but will turn over the reins of chief executive to Charles Prince, 53, former Citigroup chief operating officer, who has run the company's global corporate and investment bank since last year.

Robert Willumstad, 57, the current president, will become chief operating officer by Jan. 1. Both were elected to the Citigroup board of directors on Tuesday.

Weill will remain chairman of the board until the 2006 annual meeting of Citigroup shareholders.

In a conference call with analysts, Weill said he would remain active as chairman but that Prince and Willumstad will be in charge. *AFP*

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Stocks slip, dollar holds

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks stumbled on Thursday with downbeat corporate results dampening expectations of a recovery, while the dollar struggled to maintain its footing after the US Fed chief's comments steadied the money markets.

Japanese shares nose-dived to a two-week low after technology stocks were hit by a dip on Wall Street and a fall in IBM shares in after-hours trade following its results.

The Nikkei average ended down 2.44 percent at 9,498.86. The broader Topix index fell 2.07 percent to 929.59.

Some analysts warned that if upcoming US earnings were only slightly above expectations it would not do much to push up the Nikkei, with much of its 30 percent rebound from 20-year lows to the 10,000 level based on expectations of solid US results.

All major Asia-Pacific markets were in the red. The broad Morgan Stanley Asia-Pacific Free Index was down 1.72 percent.

Taiwan stocks ended down 2.11 percent as bellwether tech shares weakened along with their US peers. Australia fell 0.24 percent, led lower by News Corp and other global players after sentiment cooled on global economic growth.

Singapore was off 0.9 percent with tech shares heading south. Hong Kong was down 1.08 percent following the surprise resignations of two cabinet ministers. South Korea was closed for a national holiday.

The dollar was consolidating after rising sharply in recent sessions, helped out by a weakness in Japanese stocks and fears of official intervention to stem any strong rise in the yen.

"Dealers want to see more US indicators to assess whether the economic recovery is for real," said Kouki Muroi, deputy manager of the forex trading group at Aozora Bank. *Reuters*

Mirant allowed to pay key debt

ATLANTA—A bankruptcy judge on Wednesday gave energy supplier Mirant Corp. permission to pay certain "critical" vendors debts it owes, warning that the move is necessary to guard against a disruption in US power production.

In papers filed in US Bankruptcy Court in Fort Worth, Texas, Judge D. Michael Lynn said Atlanta-based Mirant can pay any pre-petition debt that it deems vital to its continuing operations.

Normally, any debt incurred by a company prior to a bankruptcy cannot be paid until the company files a reorganization plan and has it approved by the court. Mirant has yet to do that.

The judge felt an exception was warranted in Mirant's case because "the consequences of the failure of a given vendor to provide goods or services could be disastrous."

Mirant is the 13th largest power producer in the US, and it's a major provider in New York, Boston, San Francisco and the District of Columbia, company spokesman James Peters said. It owns or controls 19,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the United States.

The judge did not specify which vendors Mirant can pay, but set certain criteria, including showing cause for making the payment. Mirant also must account for each payment and inform the court in each case.

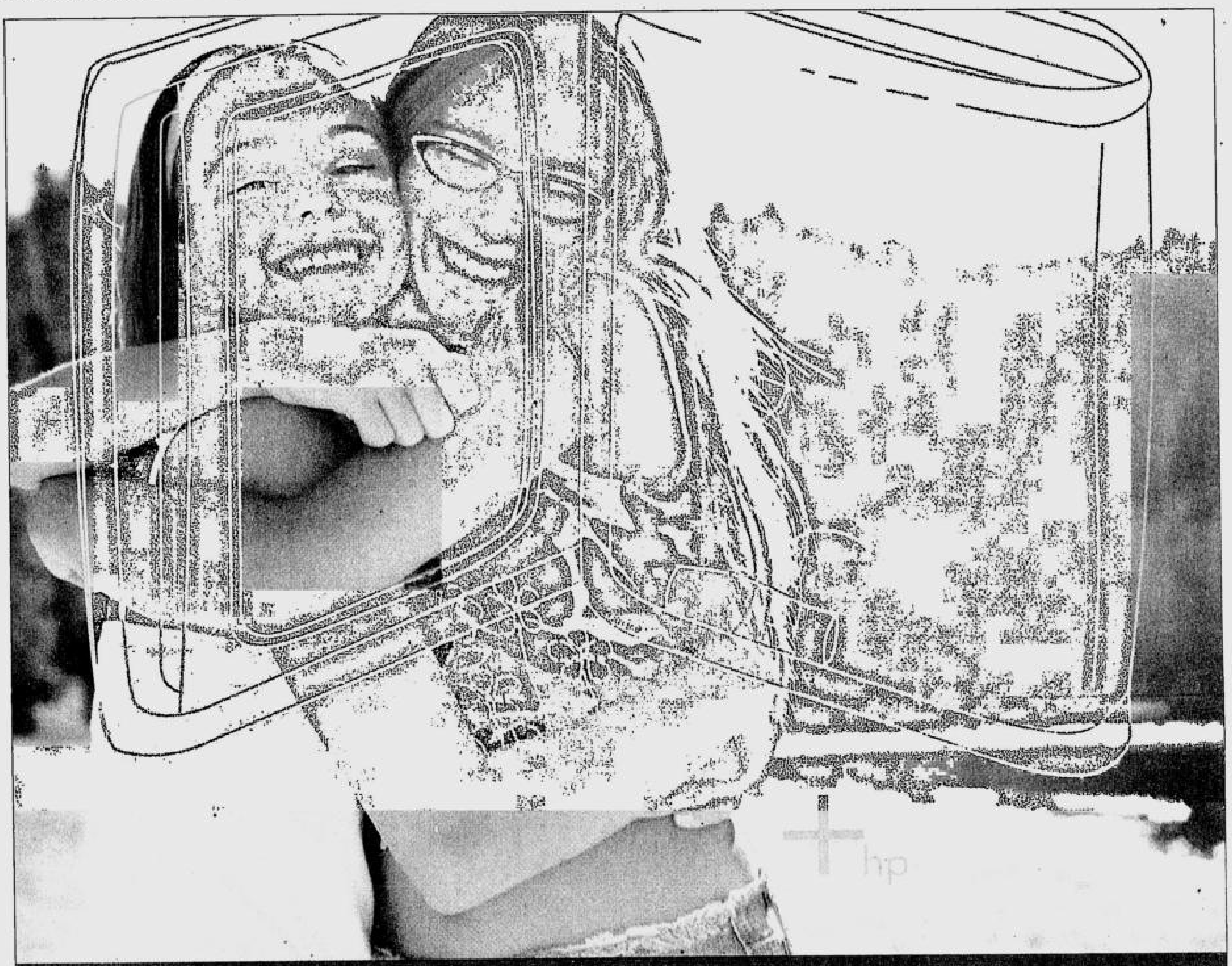
Mirant, unable to reach a last-minute debt restructuring plan with its creditors, filed for bankruptcy protection late Monday, listing $20.6 billion in assets and $11.4 billion in debt.

The New York Stock Exchange has since halted trading of Mirant's stock and has moved to have the stock delisted by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Its filing represents the 11th largest US bankruptcy case, according to research firm BankruptcyData.com, which uses the latest audited asset figures available; Mirant's annual report lists $19.4 billion in assets.

Mirant, a spinoff of Southern Co., has 7,000 employees.

Ben Seigel, a bankruptcy lawyer with Buchalter, Nemer, Fields and Younger in Los Angeles, said some courts have refused to allow payment of pre-petition debt without an approved reorganization plan because it favors certain creditors over others. *AP*



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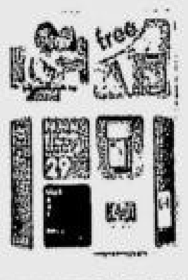

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Brand hits come from form, compelling ads, endorsers

By Karen V. De Asis
Contributor

WHEN a product reaches a critical mass of unstoppable, strong and sustained demand, it becomes a brand hit. Unfortunately, brand hits are rare compared to the number of new products introduced in the market almost everyday.

One of the more compelling drivers of a brand hit is how a product or service brand personality is executed. Kevin Lane Keller, a noted strategic brand management guru defines a brand personality as the values, traits or human characteristics that are associated with the brand. Simply put, if your brand comes alive as a real person, how would you describe your brand in one short paragraph? Often, a brand personality statement addresses questions like who would your brand be, who would it be like, where would it live, what would it wear, what places would it frequent, what kind of sports will it play, would its role models be, etc.

A brand's personality must be strategically defined and documented in a brand vision or a clearly differentiated identity statement based on genuine qualities present in the product or service and grounded in customer's needs and wants. The concept is just one part. The other side is the more visible to the eye—execution—which includes brand personality symbols like the product's physical form, compelling advertising, logos, choice of media, use of role models among others.

Brand personality symbols should match the consumer's profile and expectations. This way, the target market thinks of the brand as "my kind of product".

Here are some of the ways where products or services can build and reinforce brand personality.

Physical form relevant to target market

The success of gel-form products among young teeners (not a favorite among baby boomers) is indicative of how teenagers continue to assert their independence with their "my kind of product and exclusivity" mentality extended to product choice.

Is it any wonder why Unilab's phCare gel feminine wash has 52 percent market share or Bench's Pretty When Pinched gel-form blusher is a top performer debunking cosmetic category market research that blushers are generally poor performers to its stronger cousins—lipsticks, lip gloss, eye makeup.

Not surprising, is how the Harley Davidson's big, loud and heavy physical form matches the self-expression of the freedom-seeking person who is willing to break out from the mould and confining societal norms of dress and behavior.

Compelling advertising

Advertising that discovers and addresses the target market's latent motives deliver a compelling message and create a reason to buy. This helps the brand rise above advertising clutter and create a strong brand recall. One example is the Kish furniture ad whose idea is comfortable furniture. The print ad meant for insomniacs is shown on the graveyard time on Channels 2 and 23. The static TV ad says, "Tossing and turning? You probably need a bed like this. (Visual: Kish bed). Comfortable furniture at the new Kish, now at level 2, Greenbelt 3". Another is McDonald's recent advertising series. While McDonald's big idea is rooted in Filipino family life, it has differentiated itself from its close competitor by addressing and owning new non-traditional family relationships like the extended family (grandparent and grandchild) and the empty nester.

Choice of media

Where advertising is shown or published and special events mounted send the target market a clear signal whether indeed, the product is "my kind of product". For example, today, when a marketer wishes to reach the young market, it is nearly impossible not to include Meteor Garden in the media plan where the boy band F4 is a major cast. Similarly, products or services meant primarily for homemakers is certain to find their way in telenovela program formats.

Use of a role model

A visible signal of the brand's personality is the celebrity endorser. A carefully designed brand uses an endorser who personifies the brand, is credible, likeable, matches the brand's identity and is able to establish trust for the brand. The Spice Girls personifies the attitude, music and look of the forthright preteen. Lucky Manzano's and KC Concepcion's fresh, cool, hip disposition blend well with Human's innovative, for the young merchandise.

Logos, names, symbols personify the brand

Logos, names and symbols are rich in visual and verbal imagery. They help define the type of person who might use the brand. The orange Jollibee mascot has an image franchise with children and traditional families. The name and icon clearly communicates the message, "Jolly workers, busy as bees".

Cathay Pacific's identity symbol celebrates calligraphy and Chinese culture. The white brushstroke represents the wing of a bird about to fly. The logo marries the look of a powerful brand, which suggests modern aviation technology while the graceful brushstroke signals Cathay's personal Asian service style.

The Lacoste alligator logo represents the tenacity displayed on tennis courts by its originator and founder tennis champion Rene Lacoste. It subsequently represents the brand's value known for solidity, quality and comfortable apparel.

An important essence of a brand hit lies in the self-image built by the brand through an identity or personality, which the target market can identify with. This makes the brand an ego-driven artifact as consumers marry who they are with what they buy. The brand personality associations that come in physical form, insight-driven advertising, media, logos, names and symbols help capture the personal statement of the target market. In this sense, the brand that consumers buy increasingly becomes the message of who they are.

(The author is a Marketing Consultant and Professor of Marketing Management and Brand Management at the De La Salle Professional School's Graduate School of Business. Email at kdeasis@skyinet.net)

Chowking founder shares success secrets

KUAN

By Maurice Malanes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—He used to be part of a family business until one day, upon a friend's advice, he reckoned he should "get out of the box."

That decision was the first step into the phenomenal success of a Filipino-Chinese fast food.

Robert Kuan, founder of Chowking, which now dots almost every urban center in the country, has since sold his chain to the Jollibee Food Corp.

As president of the Rotary Club of Makati, he was invited here recently for the induction of the new officers of the Baguio Lions Club headed by Peter Ng, a hotel owner.

Kuan spoke extemporaneously. He shared the secrets behind the success of Chowking as a case study of how innovation and vision could be the sure gateway to success.

Ling Nam

He used to be part of Ling Nam, a family-run Chinese restaurant chain in Manila. But he had another vision in mind, which, he said, he could not pursue within the family business.

"If you're part of a family business, you couldn't avoid getting into squabbles not only with siblings but also with uncles and other relatives," he said.

"So I had to re-examine what I could do and how to get out."

He sought the advice of a friend, Henry Sy, the person behind the SM malls, who told him to get out of his family enterprise "while you're in your mid-30s."

Heeding Sy's advice, Kuan took P200,000 as his share from the family business, and started a venture based on his vision.

His vision was to set up a Chinese-Filipino version of Jollibee and McDonald's.

With his capital, he set up a Chowking food stall in 1985. Fifteen years later, Chowking had 155 outlets nationwide. At one point the chain was opening 28 branches a year.

Secrets

In revealing his secrets, Kuan said: "You have to define first the market needs you wish to satisfy and then define the business concept."

He advised the audience to zero in on prospective services or needs of people in the future.

"We have to think out of the box because what you see is obvious so we have to redefine consumer needs and create demand for such need, service or product," he said.

"And if you hit the right business concept, the next step is how to visualize yourself five to ten years from now. The challenge for growth lies not only in capital but in knowl-

CHOWKING/ B7

Talent scouting shifts from just spotting pretty faces

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

LONG before talent and casting agencies emerged out of the woodwork to study and then hire possible personalities to make or break consumer products, advertising companies such as Unilever Philippines adopted a more direct approach.

Norberto H. Timbol, one of the former marketing managers of Unilever, tells Business Friday that he and his team used to roam around leading universities to look for possible endorsers for their products, bringing nothing with them but calling cards and a promise of a job.

"Back in the 60s and 70s, I would think that we got 70 percent of our talents from just sitting around stairs and saying to ourselves, 'Hey that girl looks pretty or he looks handsome', or 'Oh, they look the type that could launch our product'. There was really no other way to do it at that time," he explains.

Breeze
LUX
PEPSODENT

MANY of Unilever's endorsers became celebrities.

These days, Unilever country communications manager Ed G. Sunico says that getting talents has become more of a challenge as brand managers of different manufacturing companies are hard-pressed to come up with the sales numbers.

The easiest way to do this, unfortunately, is to get an established talent such as Sharon Cuneta or Aga Muhlach, who almost always guarantee immediate product awareness and sales.

"Our view now is to try and develop a new stable of talents. We for instance were able to get Heart Evangelista when she was just part of an ensemble cast for Rexona. We are always trying out new talents," Sunico says.

Unilever is one of the country's top five advertisers, with its products appearing in traditional radio, television and print advertising as well as non-traditional advertising media like billboards.

But in the old days, Unilever teams would simply go to schools in Metro Manila and the provinces to look for endorsers.

Those were definitely more innocent times, Timbol says. The people they approached were not scared of their offers, and made decent money for a few hours' work. Today that approach would be deemed suspect by the prospective talents.

These personality searches yielded dividends for Unilever and made stars out of its commercial talents.

In the 70s, for instance, when Unilever was bent on pushing its Close Up toothpaste, it made stars out of Gabby Concepcion, William and Albert Martinez and Lito Pimentel.

"They were just students at that time, and we just hired them directly. What we were looking for at that time were simply young, handsome men because the competition at that time was using middle-aged men," he says.

Other stars that followed were Richard Gomez, Tonton Gutierrez and Dawn Zulueta.

Before Unilever embarked on its own search for personalities, its local advertising used to rely heavily on established film stars, both here and abroad.

In the early 50s when Lifebuoy was the pet brand, Unilever hired Nida Blanca and Nestor de Villa, to jive with the wholesome image they wanted to portray for Lifebuoy.

In the 60s when Lux was the major soap brand, Unilver brought in material from abroad which reinforced the message that Lux was the soap for the stars.

These materials included ads of Michelle Pfeiffer, and when the Lux brand was launched here in 1964, Unilever chose Amalia Fuentes, who was at the peak of her popularity.

"Then we got other stars such as Susan Roces, Rosemarie Sonora and Daisy Romualdez. We even had a Lux movie star of the year, which turned out to be Gloria Sevilla," he says.

Other Lux stars through the decades included Gina Parreno, Helen Gamboa, Gloria Diaz, Lalaine Aldeguer, Vilma Santos, Kuh Ledesma, Carmina Villaroel and Kris Aquino.

He says the message has always been to present the most glamorous people at that time. But there would always be noticeable changes in the way the women were presented.

"There were rules that we had to follow. During the 60s, the stars that we had did not really move about. They were presented as very glamorous. They would put a little bit of lather on their face and that was it," he says.

By the 70s, he says, the talents were already willing to wash their entire face, although they were still usually outfitted in the most glamorous gowns.

When the 70s and 80s came, the stars were already using everyday clothes and some were even shown in bathtub scenes.

While Unilever chose the most glamorous people for the Lux ads, it chose the most "ordinary" of people to represent their laundry line, which, at times, could be even more difficult.

In the 1960s, it started off advertising its Breeze brand through Nida Blanca and the message was simply that Breeze made clothes whiter and smelled better.

Unilever at that time rode on the popularity of the John *en* Marsha television series, which was popular for years.

In 1973, it launched the Superwheel bar and it got Lily Miraflor, a grandmother, as talent.

Timbol says Miraflor got the role because she had the look of a grandmother that everybody would believe in, and that was important in pushing a detergent bar.

"That became a very popular advertising series because we used her image in adapted fairy tales to push the product, and it was so successful because we left behind the competition," he says.

Talents that were tapped for the various Superwheel ads included Apeng Daldal, Dabiana, Marissa Delgado, Redford White, Mitch Valdes, Arnold Gamboa and Gloria Romero.

In the 80s, the brands pushed were Pepsodent and Sunsilk.

Pepsodent of "lasang bebel gum" fame, which was launched in 1984, ultimately made a senator out of the product endorser, Orlando Mercado , and it marked the only time when Unilever became a market leader in the oral care or toothpaste category.

In the 1990s came brands such as Rexona, Sunsilk and Surf and Cream Silk.

"By this time the talent and casting industries became industries in themselves because the market really started to become very big," he says.

He, however, laments the fact that over recent years, advertisers and even the talent companies seem to be pushing for the same talents to push for so many different products.

He says this may lead to a loss of credibility, not only on the part of the celebrity endorser but the company as well.

"There is a risk that companies will no longer be willing to invest in new talents," he says.

The challenge today is to breed a new set of credible endorsers.

Stop marketing to strangers

MARKETING RX

Dr. Ned Roberto
& Ardy Roberto

"IF you open an account with our bank, we'll give you an additional half percent discount off your housing loan."

The marketing officer of one of the biggest and oldest banks in the Philippines was nice enough to visit a client who called about their latest housing loan promo advertised in this paper last year.

When told that the client in fact had an account with the bank and had corporate substantial funds in it, the banker turned red and said, "Ah, e, oh …. ummm … good!"

It's not endemic to banks, but it seems that businesses are so busy trying to get new business from new customers, that they forget about getting new and more business from their old customers—let alone knowing who their existing customers are to begin with.

How much new business banks would get if they just asked their old customers "would you like a loan to go with that withdrawal?" The way the good ol' McDo order takers say, "how about your drinks sir?" or "how about fries, sir?" during the days when fast food was not bundled up in value meals.

Banks, in general, especially the bigger ones, don't seem to know who their customers are—or at least don't tell their marketers or marketing agencies. How many times have you received a call from your bank's credit card marketing group saying, "Mr. Roberto, good news! You have been pre-approved … blah blah blah." After the telemarketers' well-read script, it breaks your heart to tell them, *"Iha, meron na akong credit card ng bangko ninyo. Ilan taon na nga eh."* (Translated: Don't you know me? I belong to you already!)

And so we thank the bank executives who turned in this common question:

"We're in bank marketing. What's the ideal way for us to do market segmentation for banks?"

Here's the short answer: "Be still and know that I am your customer." (i.e. stop hustling around looking for new flings to start; I'm here ready to give you more business!)

Get into relationship marketing. Profile and segment me first!

Now, here's the long answer:

Who's going to grow your business the most?

Let's define "ideal segmentation" as the S-T-P (segmenting, targeting and positioning) that will grow your business the most. That's of course talking from your standpoint. More specifically, it's anchoring the definition to your income statement top-line.

Let's see these same things from your customers' standpoint. Talk then in terms of the equivalent bank customer behavior for growing your business the most. That's market segmentation which identifies your most "market attractive" customer segment. And that's the profiled partition or segment of your bank customers who buy more of your bank products and do more bank transactions with you than any other customer segments. This is the segment that has the largest "market size" and at the same time the easiest to access. Recall that in a previous column, we said that a segment market size is not necessarily equal to the segment population size.

Versus new customers, your existing bank customers typically qualify with the highest grade under the "easiest-to-access" criterion. Within this market of existing customers, we repeat the process and ask:

"Which segment would represent the customer group with the largest market size and who is the most market attractive?"

The first step to take is to partition your existing customer population by the size of their individual business with you. For example, look at their ADB (average daily balance). A quick A-B-C partitioning will just as quickly tell you which customers have the highest ADB range, the median, and the lowest. Remember that this is the logical function of partitioning. That's to come out with bank customer segments that are "differentially responsive." In this case, your A-customers with the highest ADB range is differentially responsive in the depositing behavior versus your B-customers with the median ADB range, and your C-customers with the lowest ADB range. Notice that what you generated is what we've previously called "naturally occurring segments" (NOSs.).

Your next step is to profile each of these three "naturally occurring segment" by some "market attractive" indicators. Do this profiling not only socio-demographically. More importantly, profile your three segments by their bank product and services needs, priorities and satisfaction. These profilers are the more powerful "market attractive" profilers. You'll see why in the next step.

After this step, you're now ready to target your most "market attractive" segment. That's the segment that has the largest market size and has the priority product and service values that your bank can satisfy better than other banks that they may source. This latter segment targeting criterion is no different from our definition of positioning: "satisfying our target consumers' priority need better than competition." It's only fitting that we end with positioning (discussed in last week's column), the last step in the segmentation (S-T-P) process.

Now you can stop wasting time talking to strangers and start talking and marketing to your most attractive market segment.

The whole thing is not as sexy as launching a new ad campaign to get new customers, but it'll get you the results you want. It has already worked for some of our clients willing to go through the process and it can for you too.

(Recommended reading: "Romancing the Customer" by Paul Temporal and Martin Trott, particularly pages 84-95, Customer Profiling. Questions or comments? Email us at MarketingRx@SaltAndLightVentures.com)

New rules on withholding of percentage tax and value-added tax

By Martin Ignacio D. Mijares *SGV & Co. (Third of 3 parts)*

Tax covered	Number of payors	Form to be used by payor in remitting tax	Effect on taxpayer -payee	Form required to be furnished to payor
Percentage tax	One	BIR Form No. 1600 (monthly remittance return of VAT and other percentage taxes withheld)	• Tax withheld by the payor shall be treated as a final tax by the payee. • The filing of BIR Form No. 1600 by the sole payor serves as the substituted percentage tax return of the payee if the payee files a notice of availment of the substituted filing of percentage tax return. • For sellers of services whose gross receipts have been subjected to the withholding tax, they shall be exempted from the obligation of issuing duly registered non-VAT receipts covering their receipt of payments for services sold.	Payor issues BIR Form No. 2306 (certificate of final tax withheld at Source ? March 2003 version) to the payee within 10 days following the end of the month the withholding was made.
	Several	BIR Form No. 1600 (monthly remittance return of VAT and other percentage taxes withheld)	• Tax withheld by the payor shall be treated as creditable tax by the payee. • Taxpayer-payee still needs to file percentage tax return (BIR Form No. 2551M), which will not reflect any amount payable since the percentage tax has already been withheld at source. • For sellers of services whose gross receipts have been subjected to the withholding tax, they shall be exempted from the obligation of issuing duly registered non-VAT receipts covering their receipt of payments for services sold.	• Payor issues BIR Form No. 2307 (certificate of creditable tax withheld at source March 2003 version) to the payee. [There is no mention in RR No. 14-2003 of when this should be issued, but presumably, this should also be within 10 days following the end of the month the withholding was made].

Tax covered	Number of payors	Form to be used by payor in remitting tax	Effect on taxpayer -payee	Form required to be furnished to payor
Value added tax	One	BIR Form No. 1600 (monthly remittance return of VAT and other percentage taxes withheld)	• Tax withheld by the payor shall be treated as a final tax by the payee. • Taxpayer-payee waives privilege to claim input tax credit. • The filing of BIR Form No. 1600 by the sole payor serves as the substituted VAT return of the payee if the payee files a notice of availment of the substituted filing of VAT return • For sellers of services whose gross receipts have been subjected to the withholding tax, they shall be exempted from Ithe obligation of issuing duly registered VAT official receipts covering their receipt of payments for services sold.	Payor issues BIR Form No. 2306 (certificate of final tax withheld at source ? March 2003 version) to the payee within 10 days following the end of the month the withholding was made.
	Several	BIR Form No. 1600 (monthly remittance return of VAT and other percentage taxes withheld)	• Tax withheld by the payor shall be treated as creditable tax by the payee. • Taxpayer-payee waives privilege to claim input tax credit. • No need to file monthly VAT declaration • For sellers of services whose gross receipts have been subjected to the withholding tax, they shall be exempted from the obligation of issuing duly registered VAT official receipts covering their receipt of payments for services sold.	Payor issues BIR Form No. 2307 (certificate of creditable tax withheld at source ? March 2003 version) to the payee within 10 days following the end of the month the withholding was made.

Chowking founder shares success secrets

From page B6

edge and how to develop that knowledge in people over time. You have to develop people so you can grow fast."

He said in Chowking, he had to help develop chefs and other staff.

"And we don't develop only those college graduates, but also those who are still in school," he said.

He stressed the need for entrepreneurs to be sensitive to new trends and new and best practices in whatever line of business they are in as these could definitely affect consumer needs and tastes.

Resuscitating St. Luke's

In 1996, Kuan took over as chair of the Episcopalian Church of the Philippines-run St. Luke's Medical Center.

An Episcopalian, Kuan said his election was "providential" because this came at a time when the hospital had to be saved from bankruptcy.

The American Episcopalians set up a small clinic in Masangkay at the turn of the century which is now St. Luke's.

Although subsidized by the Episcopal Church of the USA (Ecusa) for a long time, St. Luke's became bankrupt in 1975.

The reason, said Kuan, was that the former hospital managers were mainly concerned about how to spend the foreign fund.

The fund soon run dry as the Episcopal Church decided to make the hospital autonomous.

When he became the board chair, Kuan infuses new talents and new ideas without veering away from the hospital's mission as a non-stock and non-profit institution.

Seeking advice from consultants of Chowking and Jollibee, the board went through some "visioning" sessions and finally came out with a vision: To make the St. Luke's Medical Center world-class and to raise its status to become part of Asia's top five hospitals.

P3B a year

St. Luke's has been earning an average of P3 billion a year, which was said to be bigger than the P2.2 billion average yearly earnings of the Makati Medical Center.

Kuan also made sure to set aside P500 million as reserve each year, which, he said, could be used to build a second hospital worth P5 billion at Fort Bonifacio in Makati City.

Kuan said it would not be wise to heavily rely on loans to build the next hospital. The bulk of the cost should come from earnings.

Kuan stressed that accumulating wealth should not be the primary goal.

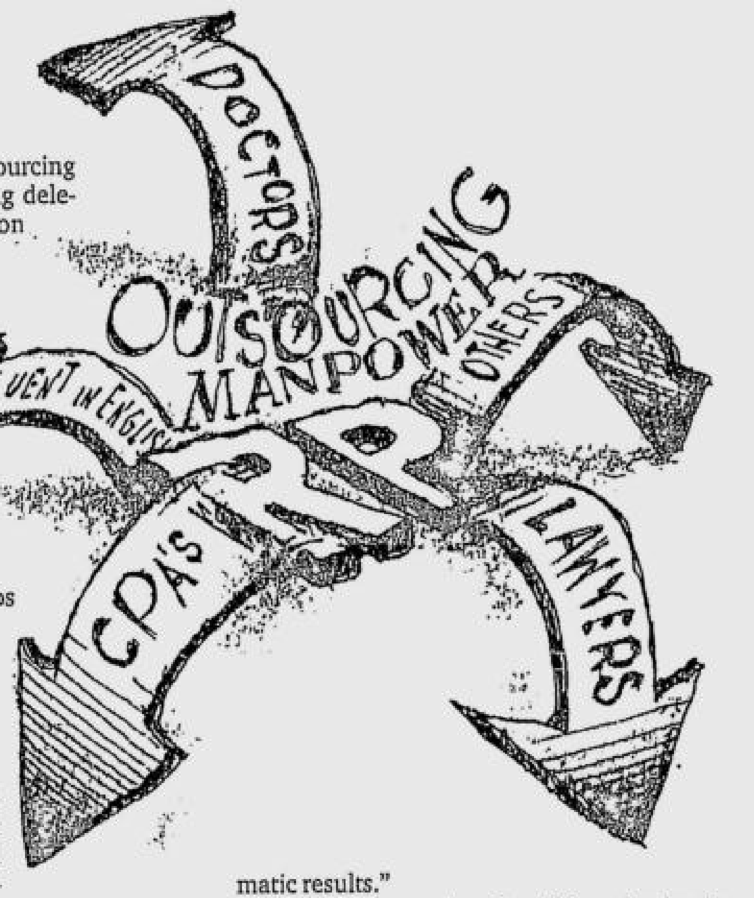
The wealth should be shared with the poor in various charitable ways, he said.

He says Luke's, for example spend some P300 million a year for charity patients.

"I myself came from a poor family, so being poor should not deprive a person to succeed in life," he said. "And as long as a person has vision, he can be what he wishes to be in the future."

Marketing RP as an outsourcing hub

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor



BUSINESS process outsourcing (BPO) is about cost-cutting delegation. A firm in Houston hires accountants in Manila to do its financial analysis.

Houston emails the raw data, and the Manila CPAs send back the report.

This arrangement saves much money in the United States and creates jobs here.

$250-billion market

Outsourcing is a huge global business—it is seen to reach $250 billion in the next few years. The largest slice of the market comes from the United States at around 50 percent, followed by Europe (30 percent) then Asia (20 percent), comprised mainly of Japanese demand.

In 2001, Philippine companies earned $349 million from outsourcing work.

That is healthy, yet it's only a drop in the bucket compared to what can be achieved. The Department of Trade and Industry aims for a revenue level of $ 1.65 billion by 2004.

Last May, President Macapagal-Arroyo pitched the Philippines as an outsourcing pool to 200 guests at the Waldorf Astoria, New York. She showed that the Philippines was aggressive in seizing a larger chunk of the global market.

Rich human resources

The government and BPO industry leaders are stressing the nation's advantages.

One key message is the rich supply of high quality manpower. It's true that the Philippines lags behind India in the number of software engineers. But there are a lot of talents in the other professions. Around 350,000 graduate from colleges and universities every year. Outsourcing is a diverse field that can make terrific use of these human resources.

"In business process outsourcing, you need CPAs, you need doctors, you need lawyers," says Ramon Dimacali, chair of Outsource Philippines.

These Filipino professionals have a command of American English. Research by the Gartner Group found that Americans prefer English speakers from the Philippines rather than those from India or Ireland. And English-speaking labor in the Philippines costs only a fourth of the salaries for similar workers in other countries.

Similar business practices

"Our culture is very well adapted to Western business practices," declared Ms Macapagal in her US tour.

The Philippines' mercantile law resembles the commercial code of the United States. Negotiable instruments and bills of lading are similar. There are also the same requirements for certified public accountants.

Telecom infrastructure here is competitive. The Philippines benefits from a nationwide fiber-optic backbone, as well as from various undersea cables.

"That means we are now on a par with telecom firms on the US West Coast," says DTI Secretary Mar Roxas. "Our transmission and telecommunications costs now make us quite competitive in this area. Government efforts to lower bandwidth costs have yielded dramatic results."

Ghana is becoming the African leader in outsourcing. But "we can't compete with the Philippines in terms of infrastructure," says Yaw Owusu, CEO of Ghana Cyber Group Inc.

Medical manpower

Another edge is the nation's vast supply of medical manpower—they open the door to the transcription market. Many nurses are familiar with the American medical system, for they have worked in the US. According to recent rules, hospitals in the United States must convert their medical records into digital form.

At present, transcription is a $15-billion industry in America. There are now 17 medical transcription firms giving jobs to 1,200 Filipinos. An example is the Medi-Type Transcription Services Corp. of New York.

For example, a Los Angeles doctor calls the transcription service, and dictates her diagnosis on the patient. The tape recording of the doctor's report is sent to the server in Manila. Workers here encode the report, and Filipino doctors double-check the transcript. That in turn is emailed back to the United States.

United front

What more is being done to market the Philippines?

Considering all that is at stake, industry leaders have formed a united front to advertise the country. They have come together under the national "brand" Outsource Philippines. Human and financial resources are deployed for the promotion effort.

There may be nations that will try to offer lower labor rates than the Philippines. As such, BPO advocates are stressing the Philippines' edge in manpower quality.

"It can be sustainable because of the human capital and the skill and knowledge. We are not talking of data-encoding anymore, its now processing claims and writing contracts, that require skill," Dimacali adds.

Certify talent

Further, a vital way to leverage rich talent is to certify it. Industry players are now looking at systems like CMM or the capability maturity model. As an accreditation standard, CMM grades the maturity of the software processes of a firm.

Finally, it's important to sell the Philippines in the target markets themselves. An onshore presence is helpful. There is a multitude of Filipino professionals in the United States. Perhaps they can be tapped in the marketing effort.

Comments to <darroyo@philonline.com>

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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
FOR THE AUTHORITY TO ADOPT AND
IMPLEMENT A SPECIAL RATE DISCOUNT AND/OR
TRANSMISSION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TIP)

ERC CASE NO. 2003-174

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION
CORPORATION, (TRANSCO),
Applicant.
x---x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicant National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) on April 28, 2003 of an application for authority to adopt and implement a Special Rate Discount and/or Transmission Incentive Program (TIP), docketed as ERC Case No. 2003-174.

The Commission has set the application for hearing on August 4 and 5, 2003 both at ten o'clock (10:00 a.m.) in the morning at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable **MANUEL R. SANCHEZ**, Chairman, and the Honorables **MARY ANNE B. COLAYCO, OLIVER B. BUTALID, CARLOS R. ALINDADA** and **LETICIA V. IBAY**, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 17th day of June, 2003 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **FRUCTUOSO C. LAGUNZAD, JR.**
Executive Director III

Case No. 2003-174
Order / 17 June 2003
Page 3 of 3

Copy furnished:

1. **ATTY. HENRY P. ALOG**
   Counsel for Applicant
   TRANSCO, Diliman, Quezon City
2. Office of the Solicitor General
   134 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village
   City of Makati
3. Commission on Audit
   Commonwealth Avenue
   Quezon City
4. Senate Committee on Energy
   GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard
   Pasay City
5. House Committee on Energy
   Batasan Hills, Quezon City

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
FOR THE AUTHORITY TO ADOPT AND
IMPLEMENT A SPECIAL RATE DISCOUNT AND/OR
TRANSMISSION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TIP)

ERC CASE NO. 2003-174

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION
CORPORATION, (TRANSCO)
Applicant.
x---x

ORDER

This is an application filed on April 28, 2003 by applicant National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) for authority to adopt and implement a Special Rate Discount and/or Transmission Incentive Program (TIP).

Finding the application sufficient in form and substance with the required fees having been paid, the same is hereby set for hearing on August 4 and 5, 2003 both at ten o'clock (10:00 a.m.) in the morning at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Let copies of this Order and the attached Notice of Public Hearing be furnished the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), the Commission on Audit (COA) and the Committees on Energy of both Houses of Congress who are hereby requested to have their respective duly authorized representatives present at the aforesaid initial hearing.

The applicant is hereby directed to publish, at its own expense, the attached Notice of Public Hearing at least twice (2) for two (2) successive weeks in two (2) newspapers of nationwide circulation in the country, the last date of publication to be made not later than two (2) weeks before the scheduled date of initial hearing.

The evidence on the publication of the Notice of Public Hearing consisting of the certifications of the affidavits of the Editors or Business Managers of the newspapers wherein the said Notice of Public Hearing would be published, together with the complete copies of the issues of the said newspapers, should be submitted to the Commission by the herein applicant on the date of the initial hearing.

In the meantime, applicant is hereby directed to submit justification for the grant of the discount and the detailed computation in support of the Php0.10 per kWh discount.

SO ORDERED.

Pasig City, June 17, 2003.

(Sgd.) **MANUEL R. SANCHEZ**
Chairman

(Sgd.) **MARY ANNE B. COLAYCO**
Commissioner

(Sgd.) **OLIVER B. BUTALID**
Commissioner

(Sgd.) **CARLOS R. ALINDADA**
Commissioner

(Sgd.) **LETICIA V. IBAY**
Commissioner

(PDI - July 11 & 18, 2003)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

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Mktg Perso'l 09192535623 Ms Tan

Mngt Staff 09186532375

•OFC MKTG STAFF 18/45YO •
Start ASAP Lk 4 Mr. Ayala
9950025/5754451

•Ofc Mktng Staff w/ w/o exp
•18-45y/o Start asap
Look for Mr. Uy 9168371

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

LED EXPRESS SERVICES, a manpower agency, with address at Unit C, Permarc Bldg., San Isidro, Sucat, Paranaque City, and managed by Lolita S. Durla, has been granted by the Department of Labor and Employment-NCR, PRPA Operator's License No. M-03-00-097 dated July 3,2003.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the heirs of MERCY B. CATUBIG executed a deed of extrajudicial settlement of estate with waiver of rights duly acknowledged before notary public Patricia Marie De Guzman in Makati City Phils. as Doc 109, Page 22, Book II, Series of 2003 (PDI-July 18,25&Aug.1 2003)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the properties left by the late ALICIA GARCIA SAN PEDRO, consisting of Fourteen (14) parcels of land (residential land/unirrigated /irrigated/cornland) and capital in Calasiao Ice Plant which includes Two (2) adjoining lots and machineries; situated at Tondo and Gapan, Manila; Novaliches, Quezon City; Dagupan City, Manaoag and Calasiao, Pangasinan, covered under TCT Nos. 167606, 161670,161671, 67951, 90582, 90579, RT-109866, 62812, TD Nos. 10579, 14875, 20053, 03998, 04075 & 04076, OCT Nos. P-28590 and 23192, TD Nos. 110, 110-A, 15355, 15356 and 21088, respectively, are the subject of extrajudicial settlement by and among the heirs namelyL Vicente R. San Pedro, Jr., Melinda Capulong, Myrna Tumibay, Maria Araneta, Marivic Andres, Marissa Santos, Miriam and Vicent both surnamed San Pedro as per Doc. No. 240, Page No. 49, Book No. I, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Mariano Bactin of Q.C. (PDI-July 11,18,25,2003)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LILIA C. BILLONES has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per doc. no. 268; page no. 54; book no. X; series of 2003 before notary public Atty. Ernesto M. Andrade of Quezon City.(PDI-7 /4,11,18, 2003

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MANUEL P. de Leon Located at Punta Sta Ana Mla. has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc 139, Page 29, Book 13, Series of 2003 by Notary Public Hilarion T. Omadto Jr. for City of Mandaluyong
(PDI-July 10, 18, & 25 2003)

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PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER

O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus and our Mother, penetrated with the most likely confidence, in thy all-powerful and never failing intercession, mani-fested so often through the Miraculous Medal, with thy loving trustful children. Implore thee to obtain for us, the grace and favors we ask during the Novena, if they be beneficial to our immortal souls, and the souls for whom we pray. Thou knowest, O Mary, how our souls have been the sanctuaries of thy Son who hits inequity. Obtain for us then a deep hatred of sin and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may recover by penance what we lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where thou art the Queen of angels and of men. Amen.

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For further information please contact Mr. Arvin Cortez
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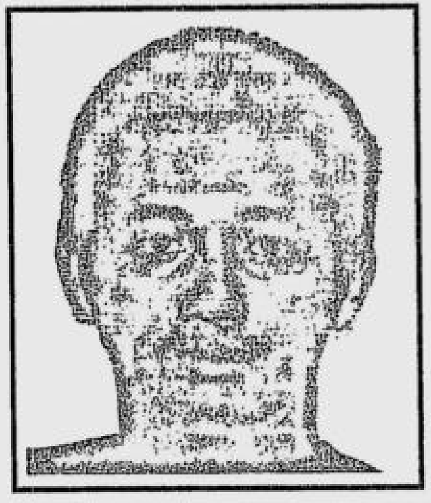
This was evident in the successful partnership of the Center for Small Entrepreneurs and the Entrepreneurs Society of the Philippines for the 2nd Kapihang Entrepinoy: The ABCs of Entrepreneurship. About 200 entrepreneurs and would-be entrepreneurs participated in the quarterly business forum held at the Senden Hall of the Asian Institute in Malate (standing from left) Lot Llapitan, Dory Brequillo, Desiree Segovia, Dory Hizon, Jimmy Siybauco, Marinel Pabico, Edward See, Emmie Honorio, Ed Martinez, George Macasero and Gerry Dango. (seated from left) Marilyn Rejalde, Rose Santos, Tina Diokno, Robert Agocejos, Rich Canlas, Zaldy Parra, Monet Lauta, Arnel Morilla.

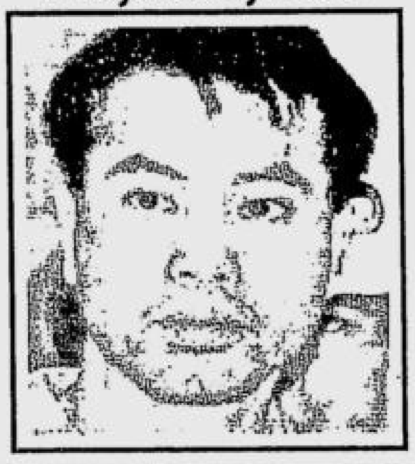
WANTED

REWARD: P2,000,000



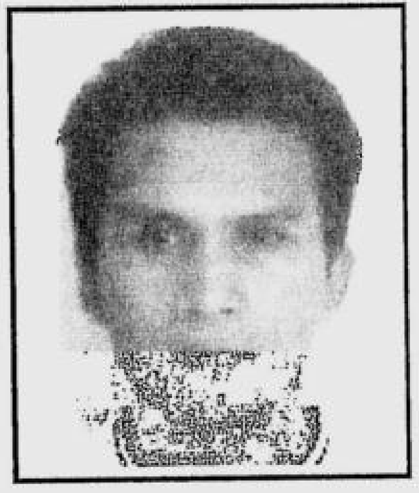
ABDULMUKIM ONG EDRIS
Alias: Alex/Ryan
Nationality: Filipino
Age: 30 yrs. old
Height: 5'5"
Weight: 130 lbs.
Criminal Case No. 3188-965
(Kidnapping with Serious Illegal Detention,
RTC Br 2, Basilan)

REWARD: P5,000,000



FATHUR ROHMAN al-GHOZI
Alias: Rony Zazad Bin Amad
Nationality: Indonesian
Age: 31 yrs. old
Height: 5'6"
Weight: 60 kgs.
Build: Medium
Criminal Case No. 18490
Violation of Sec. 3, PD1866
as amended by RA 8294
(RTC Br 35, Gen. Santos City,
Convicted April 18, 2002)
Violation of RA 8294 – Philippine Passport Act
(RTC Br 12, Zamboanga City,
Convicted April 19, 2002)
Violation of Art 248, RPC
(Multiple Murder, Multiple Frustrated Murder,
and Multiple Attempted Murder,
RTC Br 54, Manila)

REWARD: P1,000,000



OMAR OPIK LASAL
Alias: Merang Abante
Nationality: Filipino
Age: 31 yrs. old
Height: 5'4"
Weight: 75 kgs.
Criminal Case No. 3188-965
(Kidnapping with Serious Illegal Detention, RTC Br 2, Basilan)
Criminal Case No. 3137-13135 to 2014-1 and 2014
(Kidnapping for Ransom, RTC Br 13, Zamboanga City)

If you have any knowledge or information on the whereabouts of the persons whose pictures appear above, call or text 117, PNP Text 2920 or call the Office of the Chief PNP through Telephone Number 723-0401. If the information will lead to the recapture or arrest of these wanted persons, you will receive the following cash rewards: P5 million for al-Ghozi; P2 million for Edris and P1 million for Lasal, per DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2003-147 dated July 15, 2003.

Office of the President Department of the Interior and Local Government / Philippine National Police

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MELCHOR LAT OPULENCIA

peacefully joined his Creator
on 17 July 2003 at the age of 79.

His bereaved wife, **Angelina**; children and daughters-in-law, **Alejandro** & **Alpha**, **Ding** & **Nanette**, **Ike** & **Patsy**, **Chit** & **Nora**, **Marc** & **Gaye**, and **Melchor Jr.**; grandchildren, **Alvin**, **Arthur** & **Anthony**; **Ana**, **Jon** & **Pia**; **Aileen**; and **Denise** & **Joaquin**; brothers, **Benigno** (✝), **Joaquin** (✝), **Jose**, and **Manolo**; and sister **Retita**, request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels,
Guadalupe, Makati City.
Cremation rites will be on Sunday, 20 July 2003
at 10:00 am at the Manila Memorial Park
Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Thank You

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord, mighty God

With complete faith in God's abiding love and infinite wisdom, we accept His will for our beloved

RAMON MANOTOC DE DIOS

On the 40th day of Ramon's passage to eternal life, we thank our relatives and friends, his colleagues and associates for their numerous expressions of sympathy and caring - their prayers, their words of solace, their flowers and Mass offerings, and their comforting presence.

God bless you all.

Carmelita Ongsiako de Dios
children **Mikkos** and **Mimer**, **Jappy**,
Angelo, **Justin** and **Anna**, and grandchildren

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

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Remembering her 1st Anniversary

NOELLE ANGELA ALEGRE HECHANOVA

July 18, 2003

"O Lord, absolve NOELLE from every bond of sin.
May she receive Your forgiveness and everlasting rest.
May we be united once again with her one day,
in one family, to sing Your praise forever and ever."

Our Lady of Montserrat Parish Church *Gran Plains Subdivision, Iloilo*	6:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Convent of Perpetual Adoration *Hemady Street, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
St. John the Baptish Parish *Pinaglabanan, San Juan*	5:45 a.m., 6:30 a.m. 7:15 a.m., 6:15 p.m.
St. Mary's Cathedral *Sydney, Australia*	6:45 a.m.
Christ the King Parish Church *Greenmeadows, Quezon City*	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Chapel *Valle Verde 5, Pasig*	6:00 p.m.
Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish *Forbes Park, Makati*	6:00 p.m.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
MARIA BAUTISTA NER	July 18	1:00 PM	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Angono, Rizal	# 251 E. Dela St. Angono, Rizal
CATALINA F. BANUT	July 19	2:00 PM	Holy Gardens Greenhills Memorial Park Calamba City	Purok II Camp Vicente Lim Canlubang, Calamba City

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DEATH NOTICES

DRA. ROBERTA VENADAS HERNANDEZ
Joined her Creator on July 14, 2003 at the age of 82.
Interment will be on Sunday, July 20 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

ROSITA SANTOS Vda. de JARING
Joined her Creator on July 11, 2003.
Interment will be tomorrow, July 19, 2003 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

DR. BENIGNO G. BALCOS, JR.
Joined his Creator on July 14, 2003 at the age of 67.
Interment will be on July 19, 2003 at Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Baesa, Kalookan City.

PASTOR Y. DEL ROSARIO

of Jaen, N.E. & Sampaloc, Manila

Joined his Creator on Saturday, July 12, 2003
at the age of 64.

His wife **LUCY**; children **ESSIE & Ambit**, **NONOL**, **MITA & Jo**; grandchildren, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at FUNERARIA PAZ, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Holy Mass will be held at Holy Redeemer Church, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City on July 19, 2003 at 1:00 o'clock p.m. after which Cremation will follow immediately at Funeraria Paz.

In Memory of our Beloved

PERFECTO DANTE V. TABIO

on his First Death Anniversary
on July 18, 2003

Masses will be offered today, July 18, 2003 at:

Loyola Memorial Park *Marikina City*	10:00 AM
Sacred Heart Parish *Kamuning, Quezon City*	6:00 PM
Immaculate Concepcion Parish *Cubao, Quezon City*	6:00 PM
Sanctuario De San Jose *Greenhills*	6:15 PM
Saint Ferdinand Cathedral *Lucena City*	6:00 PM
San Luis Church *Lukban, Quezon*	6:00 PM

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892-5578, 811-4361
811-4370

KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

CLASSIFIEDS

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-MMSD 2003-002

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-MMSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	Inquiry No.	ABC
I 1 lot	Aug. 6, 2003 10:00 AM Kañao Room	Mechanical Parts for Unit 1 & 2 of Rapu Diesel Power Plant, Viga DPP, San Antonio DPP & Pilar DPP "Dale Perkins"	PB030806-MMAM8906	7,693,583.50
II 1 lot	Aug. 8, 2003 10:00 AM Pahiyas Room	Replacement parts for 300KW Unit 1 & 2, Camotes DPP, 3x500 KW Tablas DPP "MAN"	PB030808-MMJP8907	8,498,960.00
III 1 lot	Aug. 13, 2003 10:00 AM Kañao Room	A) Supply of Labor and Materials for fuel hauling services to SPUG-Eastern and Western Visayas Operations Div.	PB030813-MMMT8909	8,874,600.00
		B) Hauling of Diesel Fuel to the Different Power Barges in Mindanao	PB030813-MMMT8910	35,968,940.00

NOTE: A Pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
I	July 22, 2003	10:00 AM	Hariraya Function Room
II	July 23, 2003	2:00 PM	Moriones Function Room
III	July 24, 2003	10:00 AM	Moriones Function Room

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Materials Management Services Division, Materials Management Dept., of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City with Tel. No. 9245357/9245477 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP100.00 per schedule starting on July 14, 2003. Bid Documents for Schedule III will also be available at NPC-SPUG-Visayas, Martinez Bldg. Jones Avenue, Cebu City with Tel. No. (032) 2533194/2533188 c/o Mr. E. A. Veloso, NPC-WMOD Salva Orchid Sto. Niño Drive, Tumaga Putik, Zamboanga with Tel. No. (062) 9912757/9841309 c/o Mr. A. H. Alsree and at Eastern Mindanao Area 126 Abiva Bldg., Camia St. Juna Subd. Matina, Davao City with Tel. No. (082) 2976010 c/o Mr. N. F. Flauta. No bid documents will be issued 3 days before the date of bidding, i.e. Aug. 3, 5 & 10, 2003, respectively.

All bids (Schedules I, II & III) will be received only at the assigned Bidding Room, MMSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration/Accreditation issued by Former Genco/SPUG Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Executive Order No. 40".

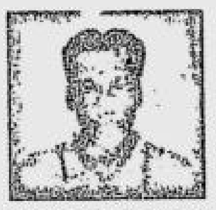
The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit – One Percent (1%), and Surety Bond – Two and a half percent (2.5%) penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids; and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

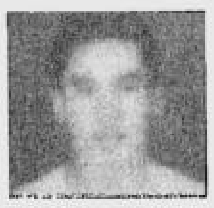
(Sgd.) LORENZO S. MARCELO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
MMSD-NPC

(PDI - July 11 & 18, 2003)

NOTICE



MICHAEL ZUÑIGA



RONALITO ALMIN

Notice is hereby given to the Public that **RONALITO ALMIN** and **MICHAEL ZUÑIGA**, whose photographs appear above, **have ceased to be employees of JARDINE SCHINDLER ELEVATOR CORPORATION (JSEC) effective 23 December 2002 and 31 December 2002**, respectively. Any business and/or services provided by these individuals on Schindler elevators and escalators are not authorized or sanctioned by JSEC.

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Tel. No.: 221-9400 (connecting all departments)
Tel. Nos.: 221-6218 to 19 (Regional Training Center, Madapo Hill, Davao City)
Fax: (82) 226-4885

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District (DCWD) hereby invites all interested Architectural and Engineering Firms that are registered with the Bureau of Domestic Trade for sole proprietorship and with the Securities and Exchange Commission for Corporations and Partnership, engaged in Design for the proposed Conceptual Design, Detailed Design and Supervision for the proposed DCWD Building located at Matina, Davao City.

Item No.	Description	Ceiling Bid Price
1	Conceptual Design	Php 296,950.00
2	Detailed Design	3,000,000.00
3	Supervision	2,000,000.00
	Total	Php 5,296,950.00

Eligibility requirements in Book form are available at the DCWD PEAC c/o The Office of the General Manager starting **July 21, 2003**, during its business hours, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 2,000.00. Submission of eligibility documents/requirements will start on **July 28, 2003**, and deadline of submission will be on **August 18, 2003**.

Pre-bidding is set on **October 15-17, 2003**, starting on the 15th at 2:00 p.m. for those found eligible and ranked as top 5 short listed Firms; Submission and Opening of Bids on **January 15, 2004** at 9:00 A.M. at the DCWD Regional Training Center, Madapo Hills, Davao City, respectively.

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/informality of the bids received and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the District.

(Sgd.) ENGR. EDWIN V. REGALADO
Chairman, Pre-qualification, Evaluation & Awards
Committee for Consultancy (PEACC)

(PDI - July 18 & 25, 2003)

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Exclusive treats at the Autohaus BMW XPO

AUTOHAUS BMW (formerly Prestige Cars, Libis) is hosting the groundbreaking event of the year by holding the country's very first BMW XPO back-to-back with the grand launching of its new name and newly enhanced BMW showroom and service center from July 17 to 20.

Car enthusiasts are invited to test-drive various brand new BMW vehicles, such as the 7 Series, 5 Series, 3 Series, Z4, X5 and 325i M Sport. At the same time, they can tour the Xhibit Zone at Autohaus BMW for the latest line of BMW motorcycles and BMW Certified Pre-Owned vehicles. Those who test-drive or purchase a BMW get a chance to win a 5-day trip for two to Munich, or a Street Carver-BMW's award winning skateboard. Other prizes and giveaways will also be given out to lucky guests.

Owning a BMW becomes easier with special XPO financing deals exclusive during the event, including the 15-percent down payment plan offered through BMW Financial Services.

On top of all these, Autohaus BMW will host exclusive parties in conjunction with the four-day XPO. Kicking things off on the first night is the grand launch of its new identity, changed from Prestige Cars Inc. (Libis) to Autohaus BMW, together with the inauguration of the dealership's new BMW showroom and service center.

Highlights of the four-day affair include nightly celebrity performances and complimentary cocktails at Zeno Bar-the country's first and only BMW lifestyle lounge. The celebration also includes the Autohaus BMW Dealer Qualifying Tournament, held in conjunction with the 2003 BMW Golf Cup International. Other special features consist of the fashion show "Sheer Proof" showcasing Armando Fabia's Dare-to-Wear Fashion Collection on Thursday, a motorcade showcasing the BMW Motorrad on Friday, an acoustic evening on Saturday, and Formula 1 viewing at Zeno on Sunday.

Autohaus BMW is located at 184 E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City. For more information, call 638-0734 to 43.

PHIL PHARMAWEALTH PARTNERS WITH SANBE PHARMA

To further its commitment to develop ties with its Asean counterparts, Phil Pharmawealth recently signed an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) agreement with Sanbe Pharma, Indonesia's top pharmaceutical company. Phil Pharmawealth, which specializes in marketing quality yet affordable parenteral products or injections, will handle the distribution of Sanbe Pharma's ophthalmic formulations and antibiotic products here in the Philippines. Shown, from left are Sanbe Pharma product and registration manager Dr. Wisnu Dewi, Phil Pharmawealth Inc. president Dr. Ferjenel Biron, Sanbe Pharma president Dr. Jahla Santoso and Phil Pharmawealth Inc. VP for sales and marketing Gonzalo Turingan during the contract signing in Indonesia.

Search for high school scholars on

THE PHILIPPINE Science High School System announces its search for scholars for schoolyear 2004-2005. The search is open to all graduating elementary pupils for the current schoolyear who belong to the upper 10 percent of their graduating class as certified by their school principal, or those who have special aptitude in Science and Math. Applicants must be Filipino citizens with no pending application as immigrants in any foreign country; will not be more than 15 years of age by June 2003; are in good health and are fit to undergo a rigorous academic program; are of good moral character and must have not taken the PSHS National Competitive Examination (NCE).

All applicants must submit a fully accomplished application form with four identical recent 1x1 ID pictures, P75 non-refundable processing fee and two long window envelopes with stamps. You may get a copy of the application form in any of the PSHS campuses or DOST regional offices, or call 926-5701 or 924-0614 for more information. PSHS NCE application forms are not for sale and no reservation fee is required.

The PSHS NCE is a two-step screening process. Its first screening is scheduled on Oct. 18. Those who will qualify can take the second screening, which will be conducted on Dec. 13.

The application period is from June 16 to Aug. 22. Deadline for submission of application forms is on Aug. 23.

Bigger RP int'l trade show set as uptrend in food and agri seen

A BIGGER and better international trade show on food and agriculture is being readied this year as industries are seen to post continued substantial growth in production, investments, and markets.

This was bared by the Foundation for Resource Linkage and Development (FRLD), organizer of Agrilink and Foodlink, the Philippines' biggest and most prestigious annual international agribusiness and food trade show.

Citing the large and mostly young Filipino consumer market of about 80 million and the Philippines' fertile soil, suitable climate, and stable supply of raw materials, FRLD president Antonio V. Roces said the food and agribusiness industries registered output increases on almost all fronts in 2002 and so did Agrilink and Foodlink in terms of local and foreign participation, number of visitors, direct sales, booked orders, and deals under negotiation.

"The growth trend in the last 10 years is projected to continue at an even bigger scale in the years ahead," Roces added.

Government records show gross output increases in all agriculture subsectors totaled P617.9 billion, representing a 7.38-percent rise.

Similarly, agriculture posted a 3.69-percent growth in 2002 despite the El Nino weather phenomenon, with livestock production recording gains of 4.39 percent, poultry by 6.13 percent, crops by 1.3 percent, and fishery by 6.77 percent.

This development also boosts the Philippine food industry, which has grown dramatically over the years.

This uptrend is evident in Agrilink's participation. "When we started out 10 years ago, we had only less than a hundred exhibitors. Last year, we had 200. Ten years ago, we had close to 3,000 visitors. Last year, we had 18,000," Roces explained.

"The growth is also evident in the exhibitors side. In 1995, booked and negotiated sales amounted to P27.8 million. Last year, this figure rose to P78 million. We're getting better and bigger," Roces added.

"Thus, the twin events of Foodlink and Agrilink have become the ultimate showcase of the best in Philippine food and agribusiness, bringing together food processing, agriculture, breeding, horticulture, and aquaculture industries under one roof and linking them with the global business community for new markets, technologies, capital and other resources, and business opportunities, among others," said Rosalino Perez, project director of Agrilink and Foodlink 2003.

Other details can be obtained from the FRLD (838-4549, 838-4852, fax 838-4573, e-mail frld@info.com.ph).

Supported by more than 30 industry associations, Agrilink/Foodlink 2003 will be staged at the World Trade Center Metro Manila on Oct. 16 to 18.

Agrilink 2003 is the 10th since 1994, and Foodlink 2003 the 4th since 2000. The twin events have been attracting exhibitors from the Philippines, Asia, Europe, Middle East, North America, and the rest of the world.

NUTRITION 911

Abbott Laboratories recently conducted its Nutrition 911 program for children 1 to 10 years old at the Mommy Academy event at New World Hotel. Nutrition 911 is a nutritional assessment activity specifically designed to identify children who are underweight, and address those risks before it worsens. Nutrition counselors were also present to give tips on how to handle picky eaters and make underweight children catch up on growth with a free taste of PediaSure's Catch Up Growth vanilla and chocolate flavors. Pediasure is a complete and balanced nutrition clinically proven to promote Catch-Up Growth among children 1 to 10 years old.

ALL SET FOR NATIONAL MARKETING MONTH

THE Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) and its affiliates, the Association of Marketing Educators (AME) and the Federation of Junior Marketing Association (FJMA) are all set for the National Marketing Month this July as declared by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. As part of this month-long event, the PMA mounts the 3rd Stratmark (Strategic Marketing) Lecture Series today, July 18 guided by the theme 'Emerging Challenges: New Markets, New Rules, New Strategies.' The celebration also involves a campus tour to a number of colleges and universities on current marketing issues and a week-long trade exhibit, 'A Marketer's Marketplace,' featuring the best of Agora awardees at the Glorietta Activity Center from July 21 to 26. Shown are the members of the NMM committee (standing from left) Sarah Velasco, Anabelle Payawal, Edison Santos, Joyce Hombrebueno, Mario Ampil, Carl Sambrano, FJMA president, Arlene Martinez, Jed Loma, Gennie de Guia, Jerry Yao, Richard Añonuevo, Luchie Julitan, and Jenny Dingle, Press Inc., PR arm of the PMA. Seated from left are Bob Taña, chair, exhibit, Jojo Punsal, NMM director in charge, Dr. Nards Garcia Jr, PMA president, Emmet Penson, chair, Stratmark, and Rodel del Mundo. For inquiries, call 893-7127, 892-3144 and 813-0466, or e-mail pma@philonline.com.

UA&P CME seminars in August

THE UNIVERSITY of Asia and the Pacific School of Management (UA&P SMN) Continuing Management Education unit is offering six seminars and workshops in August. The Organizational Crisis Management workshop (Aug. 4 and 5) enables participants to forecast risks and identify key elements of a best practice model for crisis management. The Accounting for Non-Accountants seminar (Aug. 13 to 15) explores the financial implications of business decisions and concepts needed to improve business performance and increase shareholder value. The Developing Effective Marketing Strategies workshop (Aug. 19 to 21) infuses a strategic marketing orientation in the light of new developments and issues in the Philippine and global market settings. The Business Planning and Capital Financing seminar for Small and Medium Enterprises (Aug. 21 and 22) enables participants to learn how to prepare, implement, and monitor a business plan, raise capital, and manage shareholders, banks, and other investors. The Project Management workshop (Aug. 26 to 28) prepares its participants in establishing a framework for best practice management. For details, call 634-2834, 637-0912 local 241, e-mail cme@uap.edu.ph, or visit www.uap.edu.ph/smn.

Polycom videocon at UAP confab

IT WAS another milestone in the architectural industry as the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) held its 29th National Convention and General Business Meeting recently at the Manila Hotel with a far-reaching margin of convergence among local and international architectural industry professionals, students and other constituents.

With the theme "Diversity and Diversification: Staking the Filipino Architect's Domain in Global Practice", the convention highlighted seminars and lectures and introduction of the video conferencing, which was one of the highly anticipated activities for the event.

Showing its usual support to the UAP, Lattice Networks, Inc. sponsored the video conferencing and IP connection, making use of the highly advanced Polycom equipment, and powered by Bell Telecoms.

An actual demo of the videoconferencing was done by Rene Valladolid, country manager, Polycom for Asia Pacific, when he gave his greetings and product presentation live from Hong Kong.

Lattice Networks is one of the leading IT companies in the Philippines, providing hardware and software solutions from acknowledged leaders in every sector of the networking industry.

UAP has four foreign-based chapters. Through the medium of videoconferencing, it would be able to communicate and interact with the world body of organizations of architects.

Clips

Marketing seminars for July

MANSMITH and Fielders, one of the leading marketing and sales training firms in the country, will be holding this July seminar-workshops that will focus on increasing market shares, sales and profits. The seminars that will all be conducted at the Shangri-La Hotel, Edsa, Mandaluyong City are Effective Negotiating and Influencing Skills on July 18 and 19 and Fundamentals of Marketing from July 22 to 24. Fundamentals of Marketing teaches how each person in an organization, even those in non-marketing departments, can contribute towards solving problems and increasing market shares, sales and profits of the company. Effective Negotiating and Influencing Skills enhances negotiating and influencing skills and shows how to overcome barriers to effective negotiations. For details, call 722-2318 or 723-6671.

Children's book day

THE PHILIPPINE Board on Books for Young People recently hosted the 20th National Children's Book Day July 15 at Museo Pambata and the Cultural Center of the Philippines. "Ang Barkada Kong Libro," this year's theme, is depicted on the commemorative poster with the artwork of Nonoy Marcelo. From Books to Film at the CCP ongoing until today, July 18, features films for children based on books. Booking may be made at CCP Film Division at 832-1125 local 1764. NCBD is traditionally held on the third Tuesday of July to commemorate the publication of Jose Rizal's "The Monkey and the Turtle" in London's Trubner's Oriental Record.

Forum on seafarer rules

A ROUND table discussion on new POEA rules and regulations affecting seafarers will be hosted by the International Seafarers Action Center (Isac) today, July 18 at 1 p.m. This 3rd of a series of monthly discussions will be held at the Isac conference hall, Room 601, Fil-Garcia Building, Kalayaan Avenue corner Mayaman Street, UP Village, Quezon City. Topics in the coming months include the Year 2000 revisions on the POEA Standard Employment Contract, as well as Occupational Health and Safety on board ocean-going vessels. For inquiries, call Capt. Anthony Dan Ogbinar, Isac executive director, at 920-7433 or e-mail isac@i-manila.com.ph. Admission is free.

Report writing seminar

THE VOICE of the Written Language, a seminar-workshop on goal-oriented report writing, takes place on July 18 and 30 from 1 to 6 p.m. at The Holiday Inn Galleria Manila (formerly the Manila Galleria Suites) on ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Designed for professionals, graduate students, English and mass communication instructors, media and corporate communications practitioners, the one-day course aims to inculcate the need to write with the end in view of raising the reader's consciousness (for new writers) and to impart the rationale for various options for language construction. The Voice of the Written Language is the first in the series of seminars on written communication by the Corporate Mind Management Consultancy and Executive Training. For details, call 687-7898 or email corpmind@edsamall.com.ph.

SMPO at Manila Cathedral

"MUSIC on the Walls" returns to Intramuros in "Variations," a concert featuring The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra with John Welsh, guest conductor, at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception (Manila Cathedral), Intramuros, Manila on July 18 at 8 p.m. "Music on the Walls" is a monthly concert series presented by San Miguel Corp., the Department of Tourism and the San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts as part of the government's "Visit Philippines 2003" program promoting Intramuros as a destination for both local and foreign tourists. "Variations" is also made possible with the support of Northwest Airlines, The Richmonde Hotel and Rector Monsignor Nestor Cerbo of the Manila Cathedral. Admission is free.

PMA Stratmark lecture series

THE 3RD Stratmark (Strategic Marketing) Lecture Series on "Emerging Challenges: New Markets, New Rules, New Strategies" mounted by the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) opens today, July 18, at the Reception Hall of the PICC, CCP Complex, Pasay City. This lecture series will convene the country's prominent figures in business, marketing and governance to impart new insights and success strategies. The conference opens with Marikina Mayor Ma. Lourdes C. Fernando, followed by Davao City Chamber of Commerce's Romeo Serra, J. Walter Thompson's Robert Labayen, and Enrique Ramos, FHM magazine editor, Davao City mayor Rodrigo Duterte, and Philippine Basketball Association commissioner Noli Eala. For inquiries, call the PMA secretariat at 892-3144, 813-0466, 893-7127, or 893-6459.

NET 25 GETS 7 ON 2

For 2 consecutive years now, Net 25 has been conferred the Anak TV Seal for its values-centered programs. 7 shows reaped the awards this year: 'Convergence' (Sundays 7 p.m.) 'New Yankee Workshop', 'Our House' (Saturday and Sunday, 6:30 p.m.), 'House Calls,' 'Ocean Girl', 'Pilot Guides', and 'Zoboomafoo.' The annual Anak TV Seal Awards, which began in 1996, is in recognition of programs deemed worthy of child viewership by the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children's Television (SEAFCTV). Shown is GMA Network's Rodrigo Cornejo, vice president of SEAFCTV handing the Anak TV glass trophies to EBC Network general manager Art V. de Guzman.

RP-US air talks bog down

By Abigail L. Ho

THE AIR talks between the Philippines and the United States bogged down yesterday after the country refused to give American cargo carriers the freedom to land in any destination in the country.

A source privy to the negotiations revealed that the three-day round of negotiations was cut short yesterday because of the two countries' refusal to give in to each other's demands.

The US air panel wanted seventh freedom rights for American cargo carriers. This would have allowed US cargo carriers to land in any point in the country.

The source said the Philippine air panel staunchly refused to grant the US panel seventh freedom for their cargo carriers as this was a direct violation of the "grandfather rule" as stated in the Constitution.

This rule states that foreign-owned carriers should have local partners owning at least 60 percent of its equity to be able to exercise the seventh freedom.

A point raised during the discussions was the alleged exercise of the seventh freedom by US cargo carriers Federal Express and UPS. Although without local partners, the two companies were already landing on several points in the country.

Another point of contention was the US air panel's demand for the Philippines to allow a third-country code-sharing agreement.

Under such an agreement, a US carrier can choose to code-share with another foreign airline if flying to the Philippines is not that viable for them due to low load factors. The US carrier and the foreign carrier will then evenly split the expenses as well as the revenues from the flights to the Philippines.

An industry source revealed that the government did not want this as it could potentially kill local airlines in the process.

"Why code-share with a foreign airline when US carriers can code-share with Philippine carriers? They think the local carriers are too small so they want to code-share with foreign airlines," the source said.

However, the issue of the third-country code-sharing was not even discussed as the talks already bogged down on the issue of seventh freedom for cargo carriers. The source said it was the "breaking point" of the talks.

A statement issued by the negotiating panels said they were to meet again before Sept. 30, when the open-sky arrangement for passengers is expected to take effect.

"The two sides met for two days for useful discussions and exchange of views, and expect to meet again to discuss the unresolved issues," the statement said.

Gov't may defer deployment of workers to Iraq

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PHILIPPINE engineering and construction firms and labor recruitment agencies will have to wait for at least one more year before they can get a crack at the multibillion-dollar post-war reconstruction of Iraq.

In a report, Secretary Roberto Romulo, chair of the Public-Private Sector Task Force for the Reconstruction and Development of Iraq, said he had urged the President not to allow any deployment soon because of the volatile security in Iraq as the US-led coalition forces have yet to establish stability following the fall of Saddam Hussein.

"Government would be irresponsible if it allowed Filipino workers to be sent at this time to Iraq," Romulo said.

"Security is still an issue; it's harsh and it's going to take a long time. It's going to be very dangerous for civilians to operate in Iraq," said Wendy Chamberlin, USAID assistant administrator for Asia and the Near East, in remarks she gave at the briefing.

Chamberlin said the priorities of the coalition forces were to establish peace and order, get the reconstruction and economy going and give jobs to the Iraqis first.

Malacañang had previously drummed up the Philippines' chances of getting a windfall from the $100-billion, 5-year reconstruction of Iraq because of its all-out support to the US-led coalition and the Filipino workers' experience and expertise.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration reported that several thousands of overseas foreign workers have submitted documents for placement in Iraq while about 150 firms have applied to be accredited as recruiters, half of which have 10-20 years experience.

In a briefing Monday to help prepare service and export companies for mobilization to Iraq, Romulo said: "The outlook is for the exercise of caution in 2003, and optimism in 2004. Things will not happen tomorrow. We see our opportunities in the medium and long term." The audience was made up of over 100 executives mostly from the construction sector.

But while waiting for the security in Iraq to improve, Romulo said the task force has been facilitating talks between Philippine contractors and prime US contractor firms such as Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR) and Bechtel Corp. for various subcontracting arrangements. The task force has been marketing over 180 Philippine contractors and service providers to lead companies and major subcontractors not only in the United States but also those in Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Romulo also plans to set up a task force office in Kuwait by next month and establish a lodging facility in ships for Filipino workers who will be engaged in construction due to the lack of housing in Iraq.

RP heads Asean electronics trade promotion group

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ASEAN economic ministers has tapped the Philippines to head a regional task force that will work on increasing trade of electronic goods among member-countries, Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II announced yesterday.

Roxas said the task force was created following the Asean Economic Ministers Meeting held in Jakarta, Indonesia, over the weekend which tackled ways of enhancing trade within the region.

"Our DTI Brand Managers structure is particularly suited for this drive, and I have instructed our BMs to participate vigorously in this initiative," said Roxas in a statement.

According to Evariste Cagatan, DTI brand manager for electronics and semiconductors, the government will soon convene members of the electronics industry association and other key players as a first step to fulfill its new responsibility in the region. She said the DTI would gather common problems encountered by members of the industry in procuring raw materials from upstream industries and in complying with the buyers' requirements.

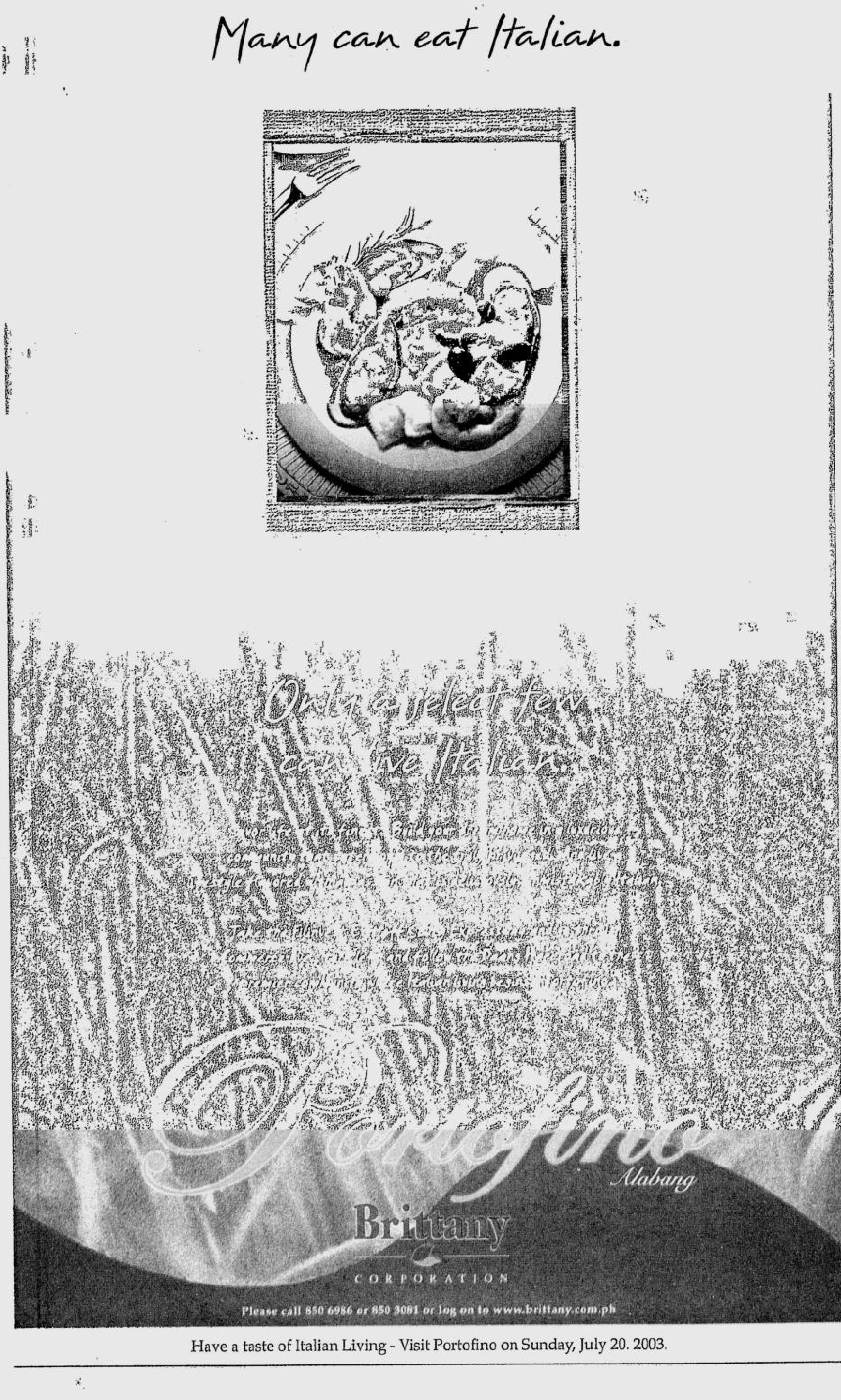
Cagatan said industry players would then be asked what particular trade facilitation measure were needed to solve their common business problems.

Also tasked to promote trade among Asean member-countries were: Malaysia, for textile, garments and rubber-based products; Indonesia, automotive and wood-based products; Thailand, tourism and personal care facilities; Singapore, e-commerce and healthcare products, and Burma, agro-based and marine products.

The creation of these task forces is in line with the Asean Priority Integration Program, which aims to boost trade and generate more business in the region.

Economic ministers said they believed that these sectors, which will be the focus of the Asean program, would have to be supported by trade facilitation measures after their liberalization.

They said measures to facilitate trade would cover various areas, including customs and administrative procedures, harmonized tariffs and uniform product standards.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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

"LESS GYRATIONS" by the Sexbomb Girls (above) as well as by the rival GeeGirls would make the censors happy

'Spageti' 'good' for kids

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE DANCE of the Sexbomb Girls to the tune of their hit single "Spageti Song" is a "good form of exercise" for children and is "not distasteful," according to the chief of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

"But I think the girls should tone down the gyrations to avoid offending the sensibilities of viewers," said MTRCB Chair Consoliza Laguardia.

She said her suggestion is directed not only to the Sexbomb Girls of "Eat Bulaga!" on GMA 7 but also to their rival group, the GeeGirls of "Masayang Tanghali Bayan" on ABS-CBN.

The GeeGirls is another batch of sexy dancers that also waxed its own single for Vicor. But the single, "Ano Ka Hilo," has been less successful than The Sexbombs' "Spageti Song."

"The Spageti Song," which also features comedian and "Eat Bulaga!" host Joey de Leon, is the Sexbomb Girls' biggest hit to date. The song has propelled the group's "Round 2" album to gold status (meaning, 15,000 copies sold) after only one week of release.

The song was inspired by a popular children's game song. Singer-composer Lito Camo added new lyrics and the song became known as "Spageti Song," including the misspelling.

The dance as performed by the Sexbomb Girls has also become popular and involves gyrations, flailing arms and bending of the knees.

"The board does not find the dance steps distasteful," said Laguardia. "We think it's a good form of exercise for kids.

"We don't know where the erroneous news came from," she added

She said that last Sunday afternoon, she was surprised to hear Richard Gomez and Paolo Bediones, hosts of the show biz talk show "S Files," talking about a reported MTRCB ban on the "Spageti Song" dance.

Laguardia said she was hurt when Gomez said, "*Yung hindi alam ang* meaning *ng* 'Spageti Song,' *umalis na kayo diyan* (Those who don't know the meaning of the 'Spageti Song,' better step down)."

"If Richard was referring to the MTRCB, then I think his comment was unkind, harsh and impolite," Laguardia said. "He does not have the right to say that because he is not part of the appointing power."

Laguardia is worried that the report on the alleged ban might lead people into thinking that the MTRCB is ultra-conservative. "As much as possible, we try to be fair and progressive in our decisions," she said.

Gomez told INQUIRER Entertainment that "S-Files" would come out with a segment on the MTRCB's announcement this Sunday.

THAT FACE, then and now. Amalia Fuentes remembers. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Remember when stars were stars? /C5

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#2: Trip to Germany for 2
#3: Trip to France for 2
#4: Trip to Switzerland for 2

2nd Prize: Philips 86.36cm (34") Pixel Plus TV (34PT9420)
3rd Prize: Philips 127cm (50") Projection TV (50PP925/69)

Consolation prizes:
Ten (10) winners of Philips DVD Player (DVD Q50)
Ten (10) winners of Philips Fisio 820 Mobile Phones
Ten (10) winners of Philips FW V330 Mini HiFi System

MECHANICS:
1. This promo is open to any buyer of a Philips Consumer Electronics product (Color TV, Audio products, DVD & VCD players and Philips-Nike products). 2. Promo period is from July 15 to September 30, 2003. 3. Cash or installment purchase must be at least Php 2,000 (single receipt) from participating dealers nationwide. 4. Every Php 2,000 worth of purchase within the promo period entitles the customer to one (1) raffle coupon. 5. To join the raffle promo, the customer must fill up the raffle coupon with his complete name, address, telephone number and affix their signature, and drop at designated drop boxes in dealer outlets nationwide. 6. Deadline for submission of entries is on September 30, 2003 at 9 pm. 7. Draw date will be on October 15, 2003. Raffle draw will be done in the presence of a DTI representative and will be held at the Philips House 106 Valero St., Salcedo Village 1277 Makati City at 3 p.m. 8. Securing of travel documents and other travel related expenses shall be the responsibility of the winner. 9. The 20% tax on prizes will be shouldered by Philips Consumer Electronics. 10. Prizes are non-transferable / non-convertible to cash, except for the travel package which are transferable but not convertible to cash. 11. A participant can only win once. Should a participant's name be drawn more than once, he gets the prize with the higher value. 12. Winners will be announced in major dailies and will also be notified by phone and registered mail. 13. Travel packages are valid for one year. 14. In claiming their prize, winners must present their original purchase receipt, claim stub and any valid ID. 15. Prizes must be claimed at Philips Consumer Electronics office, Ground Floor, Philips House 106 Valero St. Salcedo Village 1277 Makati City, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and look for Elen Torres or Tetet Songco. 16. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from the receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of Philips Consumer Electronics with prior approval from DTI. 17. All employees of Philips Consumer Electronics and its affiliates, their respective advertising agency, promo agency, PR agency, their spouses and relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promotion. 18. Philips Consumer Electronics (PCE) reserves the right to certify if winning entries are from eligible buyers of Philips Electronic products.

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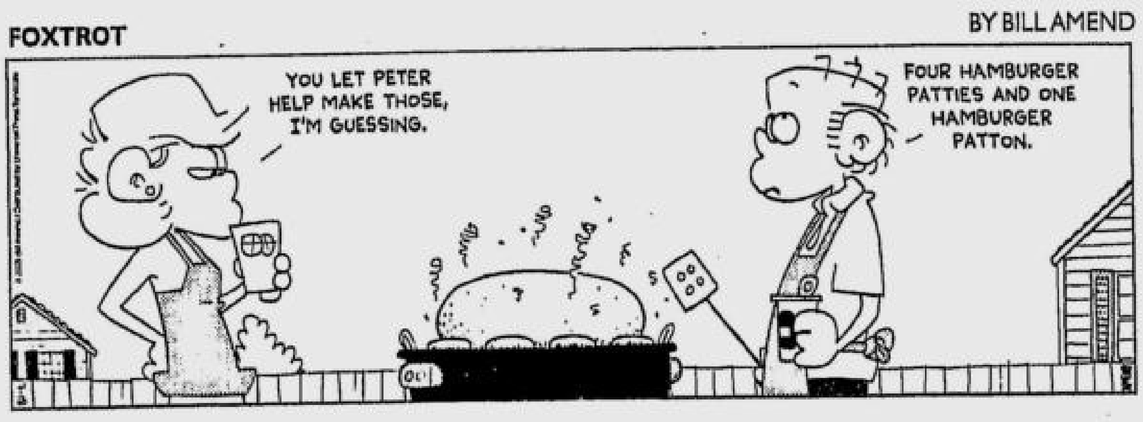
TOLL FREE 1-800-10PHILIPS (74454771)
Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 1799 Series of 2003

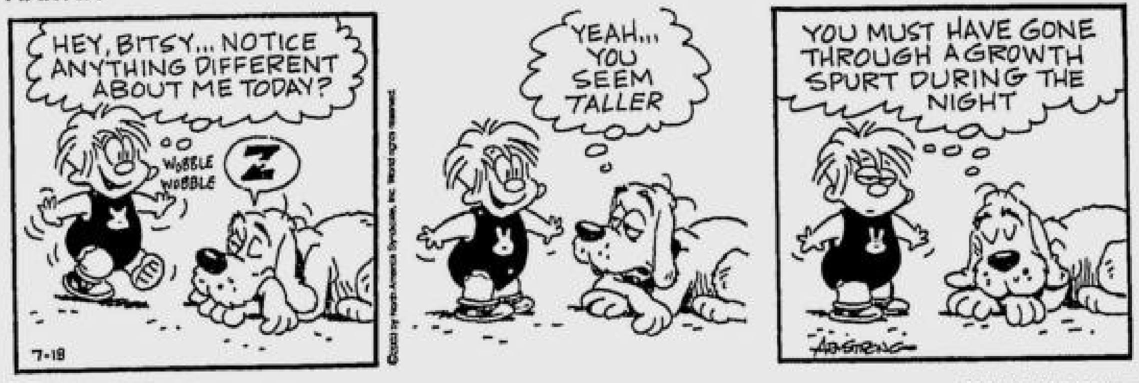
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


YOU LET PETER HELP MAKE THOSE, I'M GUESSING.
FOUR HAMBURGER PATTIES AND ONE HAMBURGER PATTON.

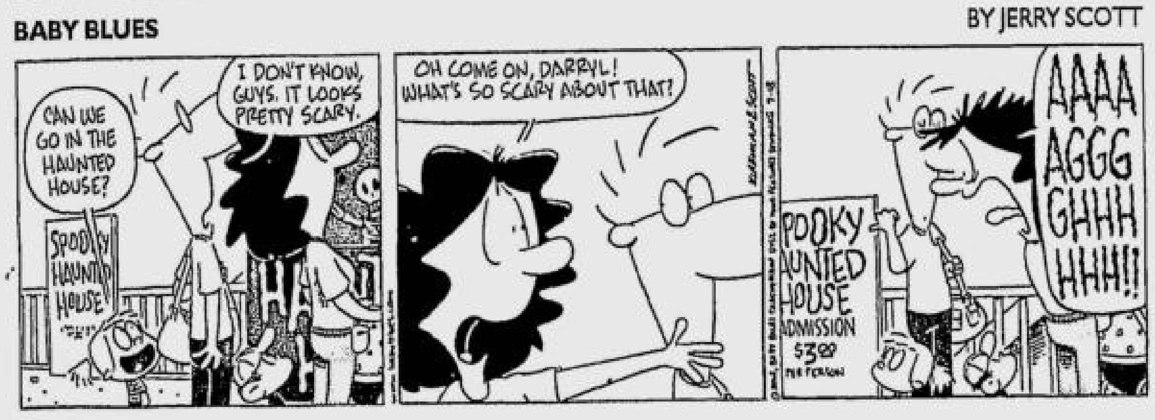
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


HEY, BITSY... NOTICE ANYTHING DIFFERENT ABOUT ME TODAY?
WOBBLE WOBBLE
Z
YEAH... YOU SEEM TALLER
YOU MUST HAVE GONE THROUGH A GROWTH SPURT DURING THE NIGHT
7-18

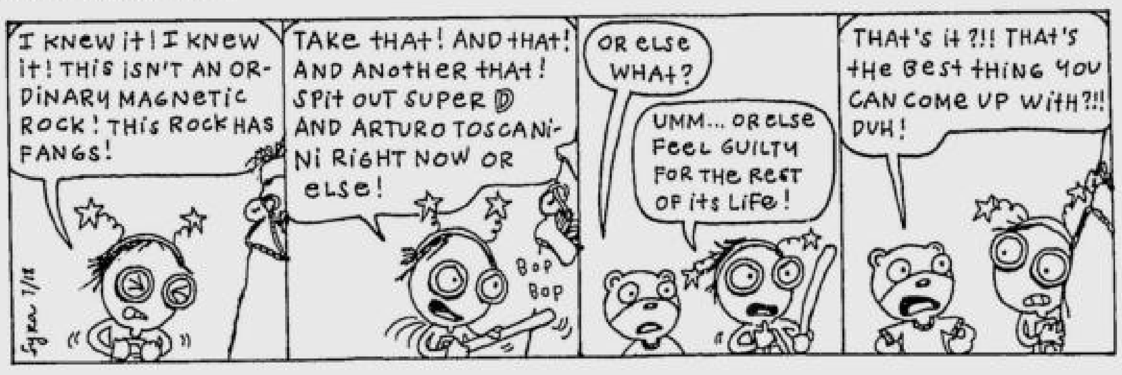
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


CAN WE GO IN THE HAUNTED HOUSE?
I DON'T KNOW, GUYS. IT LOOKS PRETTY SCARY.
SPOOKY HAUNTED HOUSE
OH COME ON, DARRYL! WHAT'S SO SCARY ABOUT THAT?
POOKY AUNTED HOUSE ADMISSION $3.00 PER PERSON
AAAA AGGG GHHH HHH!!

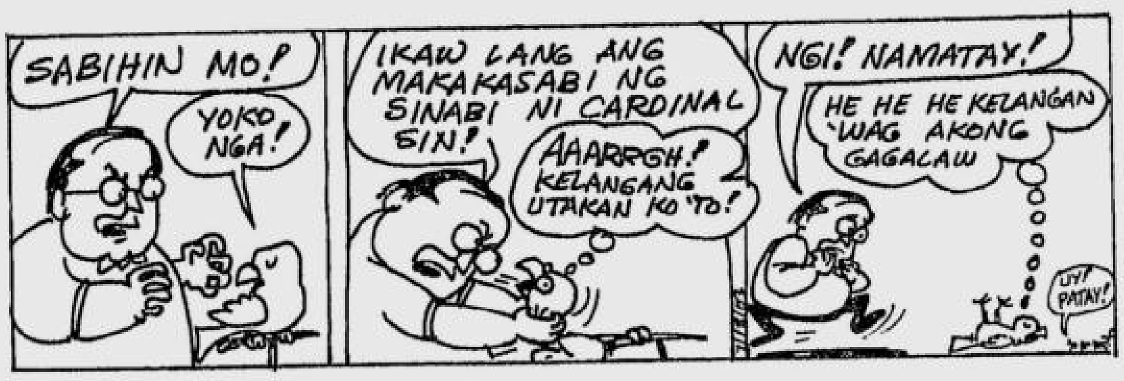
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I KNEW IT! I KNEW IT! THIS ISN'T AN ORDINARY MAGNETIC ROCK! THIS ROCK HAS FANGS!
TAKE THAT! AND THAT! AND ANOTHER THAT! SPIT OUT SUPER D AND ARTURO TOSCANINI RIGHT NOW OR ELSE!
BOP BOP
OR ELSE WHAT?
UMM... OR ELSE FEEL GUILTY FOR THE REST OF ITS LIFE!
THAT'S IT?!! THAT'S THE BEST THING YOU CAN COME UP WITH?!! DUH!

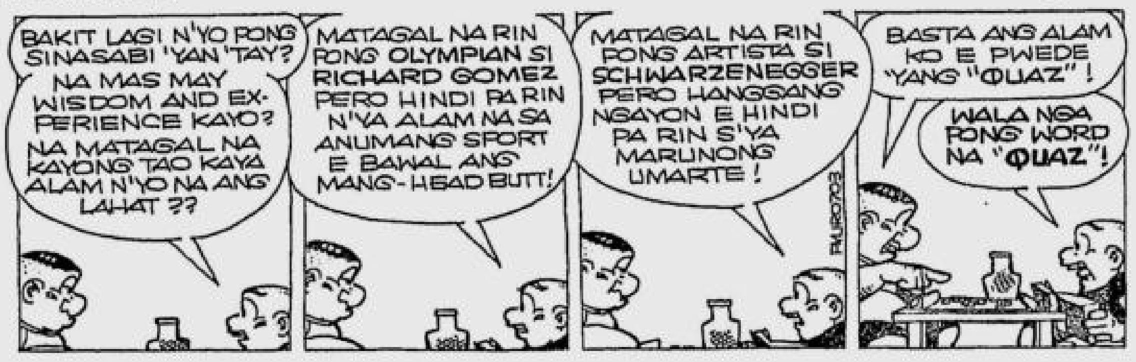
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SABIHIN MO!
YOKO NGA!
IKAW LANG ANG MAKAKASABI NG SINABI NI CARDINAL SIN!
AAARRGH! KELANGANG UTAKAN KO 'TO!
NGI! NAMATAY!
HE HE HE KELANGAN 'WAG AKONG GAGALAW
UY! PATAY!

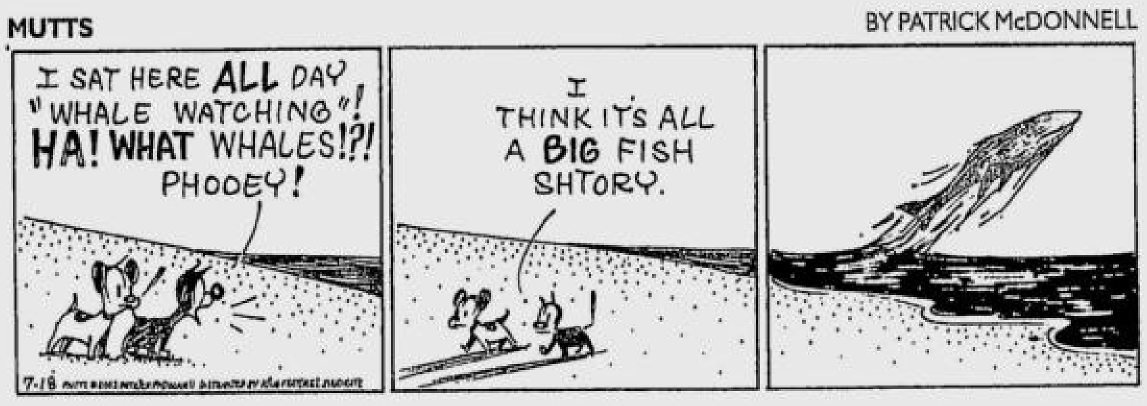
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BAKIT LAGI N'YO PONG SINASABI 'YAN 'TAY?
NA MAS MAY WISDOM AND EXPERIENCE KAYO?
NA MATAGAL NA KAYONG TAO KAYA ALAM N'YO NA ANG LAHAT ??
MATAGAL NA RIN PONG OLYMPIAN SI RICHARD GOMEZ PERO HINDI PA RIN N'YA ALAM NA SA ANUMANG SPORT E BAWAL ANG MANG-HEAD BUTT!
MATAGAL NA RIN PONG ARTISTA SI SCHWARZENEGGER PERO HANGGANG NGAYON E HINDI PA RIN S'YA MARUNONG UMARTE!
BASTA ANG ALAM KO E PWEDE 'YANG "QUAZ"!
WALA NGA PONG WORD NA "QUAZ"!

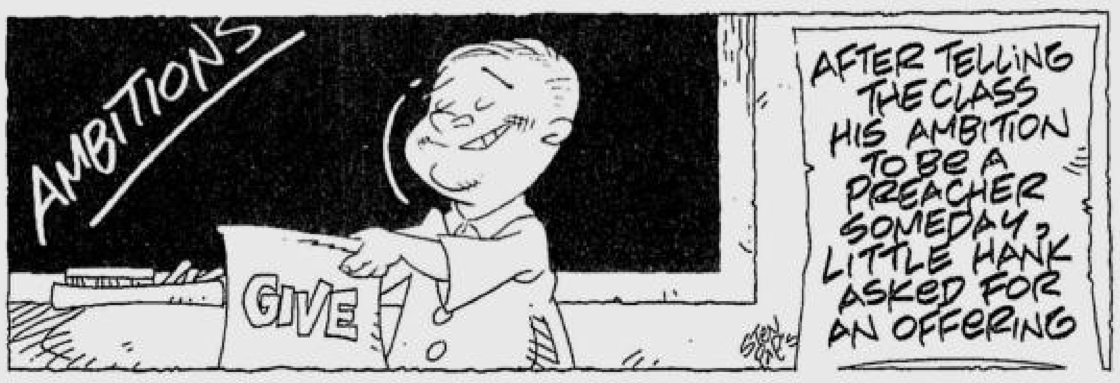
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I SAT HERE ALL DAY "WHALE WATCHING"! HA! WHAT WHALES!?! PHOOEY!
I THINK IT'S ALL A BIG FISH SHTORY.
7-18

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


AMBITIONS
GIVE
AFTER TELLING THE CLASS HIS AMBITION TO BE A PREACHER SOMEDAY, LITTLE HANK ASKED FOR AN OFFERING

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are unusually courageous and committed to your ideals. You will fight for what you believe in. Fortunately, you often reflect the values of the group around you. Because of this, you can bring change to the world. This change will be local or far-reaching. Important choices face you this year. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Nelson Mandela, politician; John Glenn, astronaut; Vin Diesel, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Although you have a strong desire to make where you live look more attractive now, today is not the day to make purchases. You will have to return or change whatever you buy.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Do not agree to important appointments or negotiations today with anyone. This is a poor day to make important decisions, especially if they involve a commitment from you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Definitely do not shop today. Whatever you buy will tend not to fulfill its objective. However, this is a wonderful day to goof off and have fun!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Don't worry if you feel a bit lost or restless today. You are ruled by the Moon, and it is as if it has gone astray. Just relax; be creative; be sociable!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Solitude in beautiful surroundings appeals enormously to you now. Try to find some special quiet time just for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Do not make promises or important commitments to close friends and partners today. Whatever you agree to will likely have to be changed. Just listen and talk, but agree to nothing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Staff shortages and shortages in supplies are likely at work today. Delays are inevitable. Since you know this is the case, be calm and let your day unfold in an easy manner.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a wonderfully creative day for you! It's also a good time for romance to blossom. Whatever you do, plan to party, socialize and have fun!

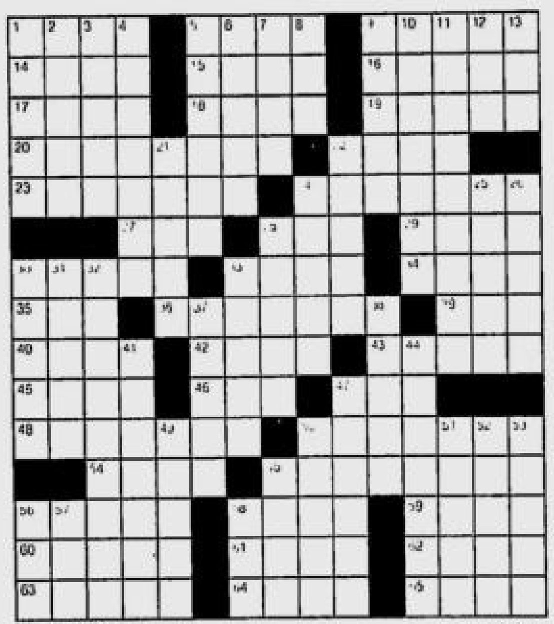
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Lots of activity is taking place on the home front now. This could be due to moves, renovations or visiting guests. Today is not the time to make an important decision about anything.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a poor day for wheeling and dealing, negotiating or buying and selling. Just collect information. Do not sign any documents. Do not make important purchases.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a poor day for shopping, which is unfortunate, because that is exactly what you want to do. If you insist, at least keep your receipts.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a wonderful day to schmooze, have fun and enjoy the good life. New romance is possible. Whatever you do, you will have a pleasant time.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By John Underwood
New York, NY
7/18/03

ACROSS
1 __ de foie gras
5 Irritable
9 Stallone in "First Blood"
14 Fuel cartel, briefly
15 Filly's mom
16 Tear open
17 English title
18 Cereal flake
19 Sitcom demo
20 Matt Damon title role
22 Partial prefix
23 Principal commodities
24 Of the seas
27 U.S. uncle
28 Glass container
29 Data's rank on "Star Trek: TNG"
30 Designates
33 Cub slugger
34 Fly alone
35 Bobby of hockey
36 Robert Donat title role
39 Writer Deighton
40 Grunts
42 Long times
43 "Driving Miss Daisy" star
45 Carbon dust
46 Social connections
47 Stimpy's pal
48 Swell
50 Language of Bangladesh
54 Nemean beast
55 Claude Rains title role
56 Easel
58 Wry face
59 Jot
60 Held title to
61 Larger-than-life
62 Yeats' land
63 Hot, spicy drink
64 Took off
65 Lacoste of tennis

DOWN
1 "Trees" and "Birches," e.g.
2 Separate
3 __ firma
4 Solar event
5 Logo
6 Challenges
7 Go-with-anything color
8 Desire
9 Money in Sri Lanka
10 Ark cargo
11 Henry Fonda title role
12 Short life
13 Elect (to)
21 Tissue: suff.
22 Discard
24 Green spot in sand?
25 Waited for the green
26 Long-time chum
28 Jay and Kay
30 Hopeless
31 Inert gas
32 Richard Dreyfuss title role
33 Tea treat
37 __ of Terror
38 Secretarial talent
41 Discolored
44 More furious
47 Not accept
49 McDowall of "How Green Was My Valley"
50 Bear
51 Love
52 "Little __ Lupe Lu"
53 Pointless
55 Brood
56 Heavy imbiber
57 Only even prime number
58 Cry like a cat

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

D	E	S	I	■	L	I	N	K	S	■	G	O	A	L
O	R	A	N	■	I	N	A	N	E	■	R	U	N	E
Y	O	U	C	A	N	T	G	E	T	■	E	T	N	A
E	S	S	A	Y	E	R	■	E	S	S	E	S	■	■
N	I	A	■	E	N	O	C	H	■	A	N	I	O	N
N	O	G	S	■	■	S	P	O	I	L	E	D	I	F
E	N	E	S	C	O	■	A	L	O	T	■	E	L	L
■	■	■	S	A	K	S	■	E	N	O	S	■	■	■
E	L	S	■	R	A	T	S	■	A	N	I	T	A	S
Y	O	U	D	O	Y	O	U	R	■	■	P	E	R	P
E	X	P	E	L	■	W	R	E	S	T	■	A	M	O
■	■	P	A	S	T	A	■	M	O	I	S	T	E	N
O	D	O	R	■	O	W	N	I	R	O	N	I	N	G
H	A	R	T	■	R	A	I	S	E	■	A	M	I	E
M	Y	T	H	■	T	Y	L	E	R	■	P	E	A	R

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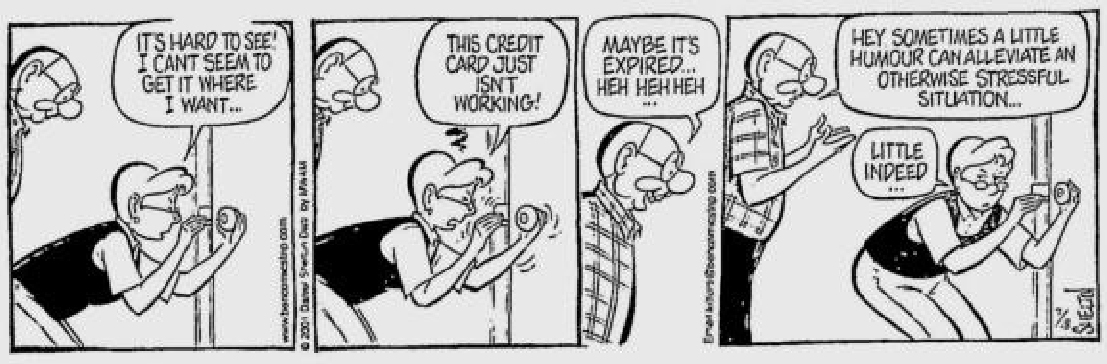
7/18/03

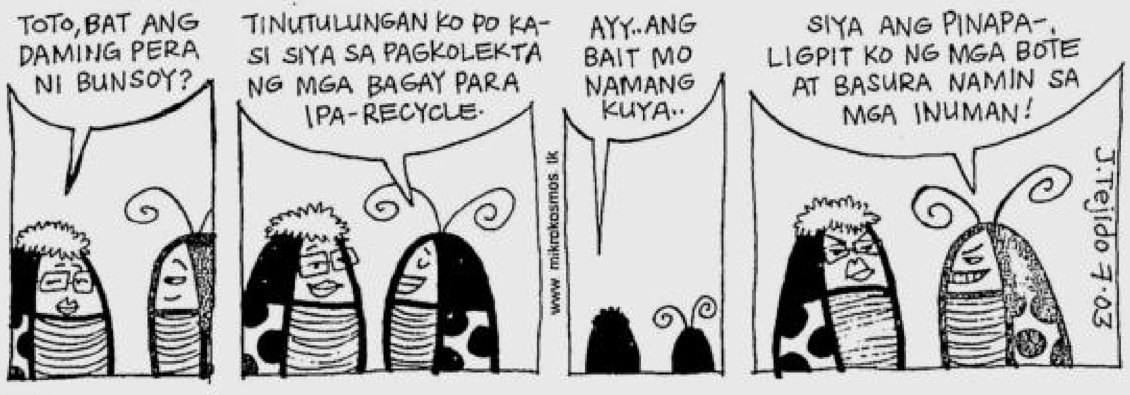
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


IT'S HARD TO SEE! I CAN'T SEEM TO GET IT WHERE I WANT...
THIS CREDIT CARD JUST ISN'T WORKING!
MAYBE IT'S EXPIRED... HEH HEH HEH ...
HEY SOMETIMES A LITTLE HUMOUR CAN ALLEVIATE AN OTHERWISE STRESSFUL SITUATION...
LITTLE INDEED ...

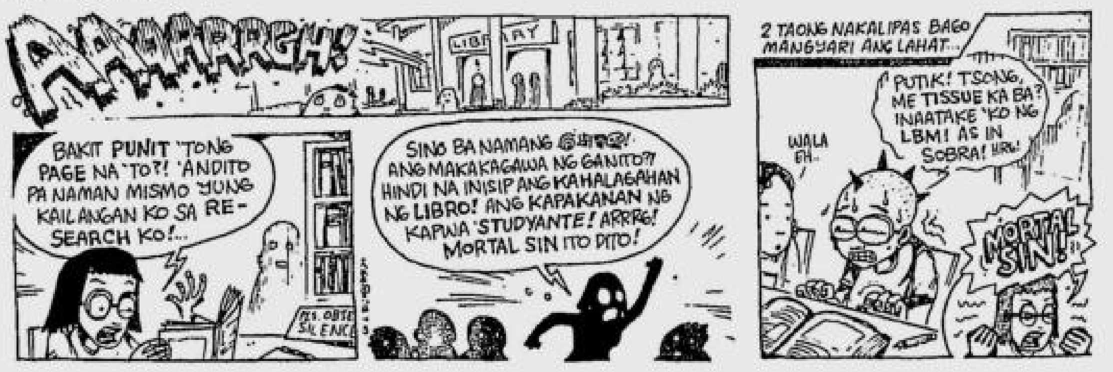
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


TOTO, BAT ANG DAMING PERA NI BUNSOY?
TINUTULUNGAN KO PO KASI SIYA SA PAGKOLEKTA NG MGA BAGAY PARA IPA-RECYCLE.
AYY.. ANG BAIT MO NAMANG KUYA..
SIYA ANG PINAPALIGPIT KO NG MGA BOTE AT BASURA NAMIN SA MGA INUMAN!
www mikrokosmos tk
J. Tejido 7.03

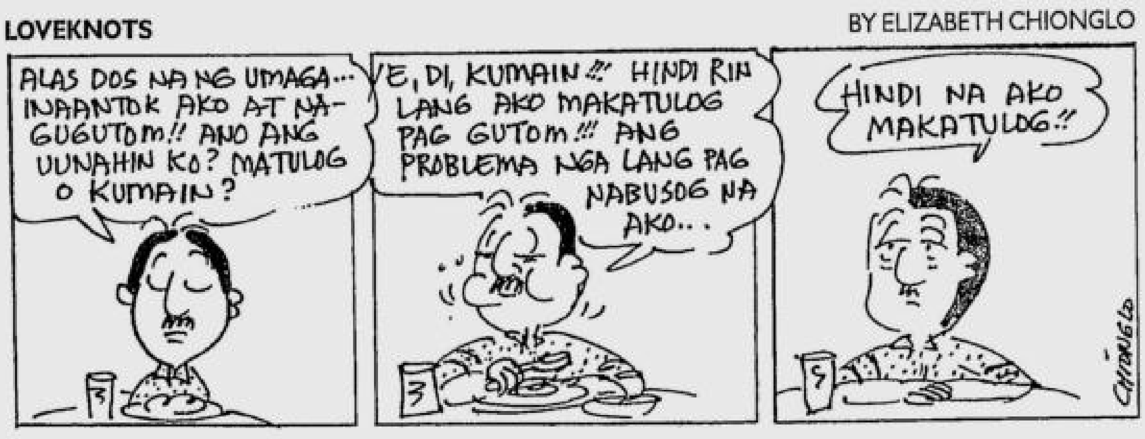
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


AAARRRGH!
LIBRARY
BAKIT PUNIT 'TONG PAGE NA 'TO?! 'ANDITO PA NAMAN MISMO YUNG KAILANGAN KO SA RESEARCH KO!...
SINO BA NAMANG @#!%@! ANG MAKAKAGAWA NG GANITO?! HINDI NA INISIP ANG KAHALAGAHAN NG LIBRO! ANG KAPAKANAN NG KAPWA 'STUDYANTE! ARRRG! MORTAL SIN ITO DITO!
2 TAONG NAKALIPAS BAGO MANGYARI ANG LAHAT...
PUTIK! TSONG, ME TISSUE KA BA? INAATAKE 'KO NG LBM! AS IN SOBRA! URG!
WALA EH..
MORTAL SIN!

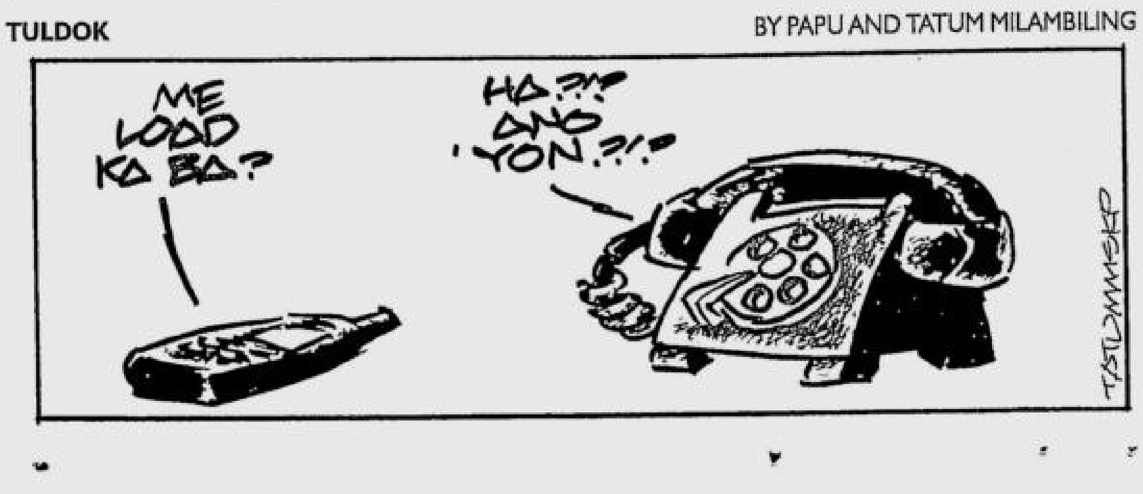
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAS DOS NA NG UMAGA... INAANTOK AKO AT NAGUGUTOM!! ANO ANG UUNAHIN KO? MATULOG O KUMAIN?
E, DI, KUMAIN!!! HINDI RIN LANG AKO MAKATULOG PAG GUTOM!!! ANG PROBLEMA NGA LANG PAG NABUSOG NA AKO...
HINDI NA AKO MAKATULOG!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ME LOAD KA BA?
HA?!? ANO 'YON?!?

Two faces of show business

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE MASKS of comedy and tragedy have traditionally been used as symbols of the two faces of show business. Last Sunday evening, this was coincidentally given a literal dimension when two competing TV shows, Channel 2's "Sharon" and "Channel 7's "Partners, Mel & Jay," presented two contrasting episodes; "Sharon" fielded a panel of male comedians, while "Mel & Jay" interviewed some celebrities on the saddest moments in their lives.

Most of the comedians on "Sharon" were physically "unique," from a midget to a comic who was relentlessly razzed for looking like a walking corpse. Thus did the program show that physical comedy is still very much with us, the freakier, the better.

Of course, we have goodlooking sitcom stars like **Aga Muhlach** and **Edu Manzano**, but they generally play straight men to the physically-peculiar comics, who get most of the laughs.

We hope that the day isn't far off when local audiences will learn to laugh, not at a loopy face or some other odd physical characteristic, but at genuinely funny situations and punchlines.

Anyway, the comics on last Sunday's "Sharon" had a hard time making guest star **Diana Zubiri** laugh. They mugged for all they were worth, but only two of them managed to make Diana break her resolve not to be amused by their frantic antics.

Sharon herself was a far easier comic target, and dissolved into helpless giggles often in the course of the program.

On the other hand, tears and recrimination characterized "Mel & Jay" as the show's guests re-lived the most painful "teaching episodes" in their lives.

Instructively, most of their woes were predictably caused by faithless lovers and overly demanding and dependent relatives. Career and financial problems were easier to take and resolve, but low blows dealt by loved ones were much difficult to contend with, and left sullen scars in the psyches of the show's guests.

A highlight of the program was the revelation by **April Boy Regino** that he was already a husband and father. For years, he had been claiming he was a bachelor for the sake of his career. But he now felt that the time was right for him to tell the truth about his being a family man.

He even trotted out his teenage children, who said that they felt liberated and vindicated by their father's decision to tell the truth, and the tears started flowing again.

Some welcome comic contrast was provided by another guest, **Elizabeth Ramsey**, who refused to let her problems get her down. As other guests sang the blues, she stubbornly believed that life goes on, and advised viewers not to give way to the temptation to succumb to despair and hatred. Thus, all by her lonesome, Elizabeth combined the masks of comedy and tragedy, and turned out to be the most memorable guest among the luminaries featured on the two shows last Sunday evening.

Tintin on 'MUB'

WE'RE glad to see that **Tintin Bersola** has joined Edu Manzano and **Erwin Tulfo** as one of the main hosts on ABS-CBN's morning show, "Magandang Umaga Bayan." Her return to the morning program is just one of the welcome changes that the show has instituted to keep viewers informed and entertained.

We like Tintin's style of hosting because she's able to combine a breezy on-camera performance style with solid content and a responsible attitude in relation to her work.

Unlike some beautiful tyros who try to get by on "face value" and pertness alone, Tintin knows whereof she speaks, so viewers get a clear understanding of whatever it is that's being discussed or featured on the show.

The program's segment hosts include **Cherie Mercado** for health and weather; **Reema Chanco** for live traffic reports; **Ira Panganiban** for sports and fitness; **Mon Ilagan** and **Katherine de Castro** for news bulletin, with **Mike Cohen** handling international news reports; **Winnie Cordero** for "Boses ng Bayan."

Bobby Yan will have his own segment, and a new feature, "Salamat, Doktor," will have doctors answering viewers' medical queries.

"MUB" airs weekdays at 5:30 a.m. on Channel 2.

DID YOU KNOW...

A very pregnant **Giselle Sanchez** laughed hard at the jokes of comic **Rex Navarette** when he did another show two Mondays ago at Dish at the Power Plant Mall. Giselle was with friend **Ina Raymundo**, also a new mom. Also watching were theater actor **Joel Trinidad** and GMA 7 newscaster and "Wish Ko Lang" host **Bernadette Sembrano**, with a good-looking date.

HAPPY, SAD. Ramsey (far left) refuses to succumb to despair and hatred, while "Idol" April Boy Regino finally admits he's married, with children.

TONIGHT!!!
SIDE A @ Virgin CAFE
JULY 18 FRIDAY
VIRGIN CAFE TOMAS MORATO QC tel no 373-8766 373-8761 373-8762 or 926-8039

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Tickets at popular prices!
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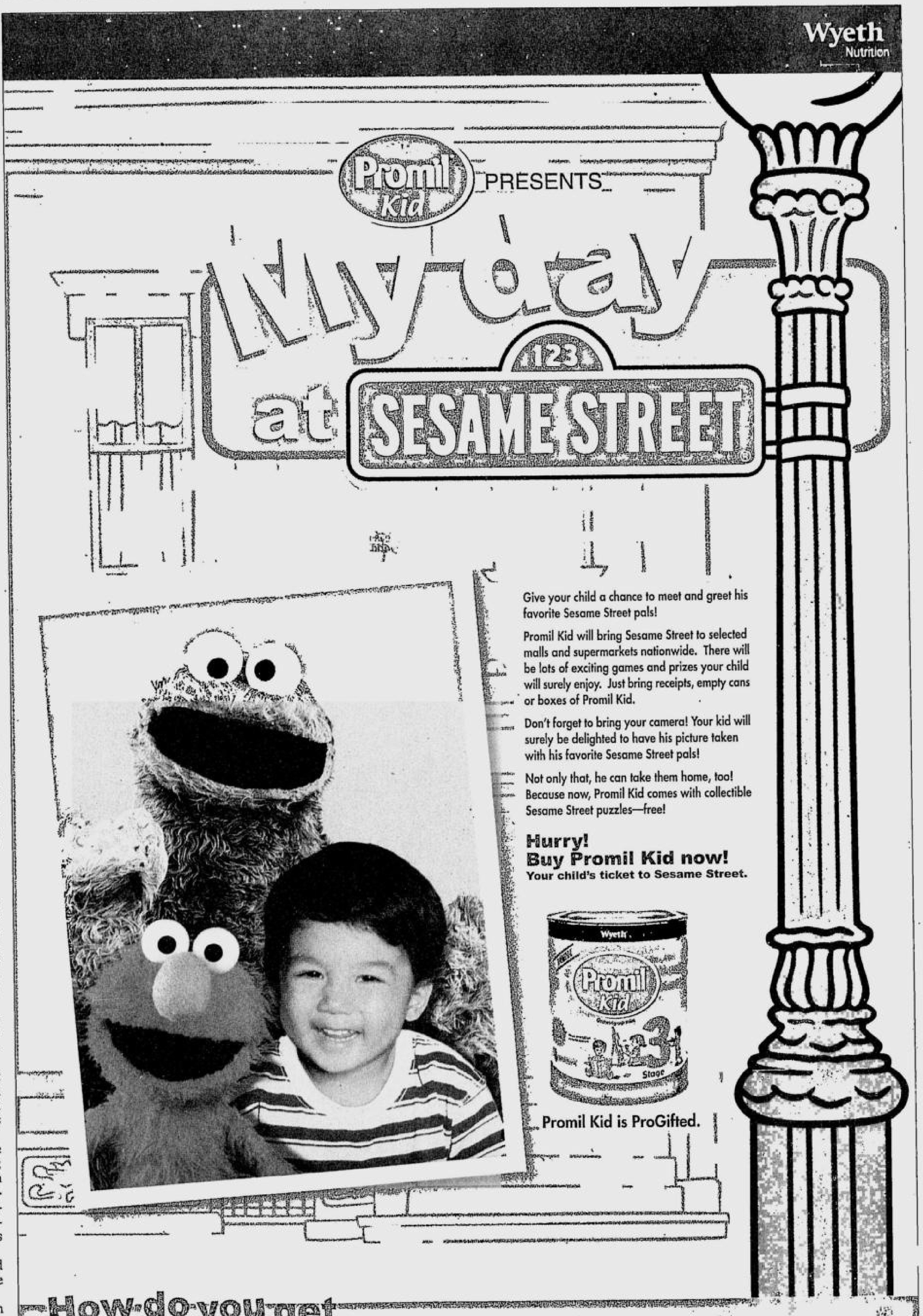
BACOLOD CITY
JULY 27
St. La Salle Coliseum
Tickets at
SKYCABLE TICKETRON
432-0058
and at all branches of
JOLLIBEE
SHAKEY'S
NEGROS GRACE PHARMACY
CEBU CITY
JULY 30
Cebu Coliseum
Tickets at
SM 231-2423 231-0627
DUNKIN' DONUTS 346-7256
National Book Store
GRAPHIC FX TEL. 234-0058
CLARK FIELD
AUGUST 2
Freedom Ring Amphitheater
Tickets at
SM PAMPANGA
Jollibee
Mister Donut
ALL BRANCHES IN PAMPANGA
DAGUPAN CITY
AUGUST 3
Dagupan Astrodome
Tickets at
Jollibee
Mister Donut
ALL BRANCHES IN
PANGASINAN LA UNION
TARLAC BAGUIO



Wyeth Nutrition
Promil Kid PRESENTS
My day at 123 SESAME STREET

Give your child a chance to meet and greet his favorite Sesame Street pals!

Promil Kid will bring Sesame Street to selected malls and supermarkets nationwide. There will be lots of exciting games and prizes your child will surely enjoy. Just bring receipts, empty cans or boxes of Promil Kid.

Don't forget to bring your camera! Your kid will surely be delighted to have his picture taken with his favorite Sesame Street pals!

Not only that, he can take them home, too! Because now, Promil Kid comes with collectible Sesame Street puzzles—free!

Hurry!
Buy Promil Kid now!
Your child's ticket to Sesame Street.

Promil Kid is ProGifted.

How do you get to Sesame Street? Head to the nearest mall or supermarket on these dates:

METRO MANILA:

July 18, 2003	Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Cainta
July 19, 2003	Shopwise, Libis, Quezon City
July 26, 2003	Ever Gotesco, Ortigas
August 16, 2003	SM City, Fairview
August 17, 2003	Landmark, Makati
August 23, 2003	Robinson's Galleria, Ortigas
August 24, 2003	Rustan's Supermarket, Rockwell
August 31, 2003	SM Centerpoint, Sta. Mesa

PROVINCIAL:

July 20, 2003	Metro Ayala, Cebu
July 27, 2003	SM City, Iloilo
July 27, 2003	Robinson's Place, Iloilo
August 2, 2003	SM City, Cebu
August 3, 2003	Robinson's Place, Imus, Cavite
August 9, 2003	NCCC, Davao
August 9, 2003	Park & Shop, Davao
August 10, 2003	South Supermarket, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
August 10, 2003	Waltermart, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
August 30, 2003	SM Pampanga

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ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS

PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 DOWN WITH LOVE	1 LIZZIE MCGUIRE	Art Film 1 MIRANDA (Exclusive) 11 50, 1 30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 DOWN WITH LOVE 1 05 3 10 5 15 7 20 9 25 11 30	THX 1 DOWN WITH LOVE
2 TERMINATOR 3	2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE	2 TERMINATOR 3 11 40, 2 05, 4 30, 6 55, 9 30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 TERMINATOR 3 1 40, 4 00, 6 20, 8 40, 11 00	2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 DEATHWATCH	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 TERMINATOR 3 10, 3 30, 5 50, 8 10, 10 30	Onstage	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 12 10 2 30 4 50 7 10 9 30	3 TERMINATOR 3
4 MASAMANG UGAT	4 JACKASS		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 IMPOSTOR 1 30 3 30 5 30 7 30 9 30 11 30	4 JACKASS
	5 THE BANGKOK HAUNTED		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 LIZZIE MCGUIRE 1 05 3 10 5 15 7 20 9 25 11 30	5 IMPOSTOR
	6 DOWN WITH LOVE			
	7 IMPOSTOR			

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5 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
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2	TERMINATOR-3
3	-
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1	
2	
3	

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3	
4	

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4	BANGKOK HAUNTED
5	IMPOSTOR
6	JACKASS THE MOVIE
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8 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3
9 (DOLBY)	LIZZIE MCGUIRE

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3	MASAMANG UGAT
4 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR-3
5	DOWN WITH LOVE
6 (DOLBY)	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
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3 (DTS)	MASAMANG UGAT
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2	DOWN WITH LOVE
3 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3
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1 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
2	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
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5	DOWN WITH LOVE

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2	MASAMANG UGAT
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATOR 3
4 (SDDS)	BANGKOK HAUNTED
5 (DTS)	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6	DOWN WITH LOVE
7	IMPOSTOR

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3 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3

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1	DOWN WITH LOVE
2 (DTS)	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
4	MASAMANG UGAT

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4	MASAMANG UGAT

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2	
3 (DTS)	
4	

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4	DUMB AND DUMBERER
5	LIZZIE MCGUIRE

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1	TERMINATOR-3
2	DOWN WITH LOVE
3	

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2	DOWN WITH LOVE
3	MASAMANG UGAT

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2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3	28 DAYS LATER
4	THE HUNTED

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4	MASAMANG UGAT

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6	MASAMANG UGAT
7	DOWN WITH LOVE
8	JACKASS

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4	BANGKOK HAUNTED
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7	MASAMANG UGAT
8	JACKASS
9	DOWN WITH LOVE
10	DEATH WATCH

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
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1	DEATH WATCH
2	JACKASS
3	28 DAYS LATER
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	MASAMANG UGAT
6	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
7	BANGKOK HAUNTED
8	DOWN WITH LOVE
9	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
10	TUKAAN
11	THE HUNTED
12	TERMINATOR 3

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1	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS-2
3	DOWN WITH LOVE
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	DEATH WATCH
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	IMPOSTOR
8	THE HUNTED
9	BANGKOK HAUNTED
10	DUMB & DUMBERER
11	JACKASS
12	MASAMANG UGAT

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1	TERMINATOR 3
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4	DOWN WITH LOVE
5	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6	DEATH WATCH
7	THE HUNTED
8	IMPOSTOR
9	MASAMANG UGAT
10	TERMINATOR 3
11	JACKASS
12	BANGKOK HAUNTED

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1	IMPOSTOR
2	DEATH WATCH
3	MASAMANG UGAT
4	JACKASS
5	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6	DOWN WITH LOVE
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
8	TERMINATOR 3

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8066888

1	DOWN WITH LOVE
2	JACKASS
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	MASAMANG UGAT
8	IMPOSTOR
9	DEATH WATCH
10	BANGKOK HAUNTED

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2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	THE HUNTED
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6	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
7	WILLARD
8	TERMINATOR 3

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3	TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT
4	THE HUNTED
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	CLOSED
8	REAL CANCUN

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1	TERMINATOR 3
2	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3	28 DAYS LATER
4	DUMB & DUMBERER
5	MASAMANG UGAT
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

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1	MASAMANG UGAT
2	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	DOWN WITH LOVE

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1	TERMINATOR 3
2	BANGKOK HAUNTED
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4	MASAMANG UGAT

SM CITY DAVAO
2976996

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	DANCER IN THE DARK
3	CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUS MINDS
4	THE HUNTED
5	28 DAYS LATER
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
2	MASAMANG UGAT
3	DOWN WITH LOVE
4	TERMINATOR 3

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2804

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	REAL CANCUN
3	ADAPTATION
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1	TERMINATOR 3 10:00 FS/10:10 MF/12:15/2:20/4:30/8:50/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END
2	DOWN WITH LOVE 10:10 FS/10:30 MF/12:35/2:40/4:45/6:50/ 8:55/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END

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3	BANGKOK HAUNTED
4	IMPOSTOR
5	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
8	JACKASS
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10	DEATH WATCH

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3	BANGKOK HAUNTED
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6	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
7	DOWN WITH LOVE

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2	JACKASS
3	IMPOSTOR
4	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5	DOWN WITH LOVE
6	BANGKOK HAUNTED
7	MASAMANG UGAT
8	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

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2	JACKASS
3	DEATH WATCH
4	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5	DOWN WITH LOVE
6	BANGKOK HAUNTED
7	MASAMANG UGAT
8	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

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2	TERMINATOR 3
3	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4	MASAMANG UGAT

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1	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
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3	DUMB & DUMBERER
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
5	MASAMANG UGAT
6	TERMINATOR 3

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1	TERMINATOR 3
2	DOWN WITH LOVE
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5	MASAMANG UGAT
6	JACKASS

Sta. Rosa Laguna (049)837-0907

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	DOWN WITH LOVE
3	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4	MASAMANG UGAT
5	DUMB & DUMBERER

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	THE HOURS
3	THE GURU
4	DUMB & DUMBERER
5	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	PIGLETS BIG MOVIE
3	THE HUNTED
4	CHARLIES ANGELS
5	REAL CANCUN
6	TUMITIBOK..KUMIKIROT

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

When stars were stars

By Marinel R. Cruz

BEAUTY soap Lux sold a lot with a lot of help from her beauty, as shown in this ad framed in her Quezon City house.

BACK then, we made more movies, fewer commercials and less TV appearances. We were really movie stars. Nowadays, show business personalities are merely paid endorsers."

Amalia Fuentes, "Miss No. 1," "Elizabeth Taylor of the Philippines," and one of the very few members of true film royalty in the '60s and '70s, is comparing movies and stars then and now.

Ironically, her nephew, Aga Muhlach, is the country's leading male celebrity product endorser today.

"I used to be very busy, doing 16 movies a year," says Amalia, now a 61-year-old private citizen but still a woman of strong opinions, in her home in New Manila, Quezon City, "My work on television was not as important as my movie career. Stars nowadays do films once every two years. TV is their bread and butter, jam *na lang nila ang* movies."

Strict rules

Amalia was an exclusive Sampaguita Pictures talent for seven years. Her first movie, the comedy "Movie Fan," was a hit and led to more box-office hits like "Pretty Boy" opposite her former husband, Romeo Vasquez, "Baby Bubut," where she played a woman-child counterpart of the popular Bondying, and "Amaliang Mali-Mali vs Susanang Daldal," which pitted her against Susan Roces, her constant archrival for the title "Queen of Philippine Movies."

In the late '60s, after her contract with Sampaguita Pictures expired, she put up her own movie company, AM Productions, with her brothers Alex and Cheng, Aga Muhlach's father. AM Productions produced movies such as "Sa Manlulupig, Di Ka Pasisiil," "Tatlong Kasaysayan ng Pag-Ibig" and "Room 69." When the movie outfit folded up, Amalia free-lanced in films like "Isang Gabi, Tatlong Babae," "Babae Ikaw Ang Dahilan" and "Ang Uliran."

The goal of most filmmakers and actors during her time, according to Amalia, was to "come up with good stories and make good films." Movie stars then where more disciplined because studios like Sampaguita imposed strict rules, she says.

Sampaguita patriarch Dr. Jose Vera-Perez was so strict that he reprimanded his female stars whenever he caught them wearing pants. And no actress was allowed to go out on dates without chaperones.

"Nowadays, producers give in to their actors' every whim," she says. "I think now that the movie industry is not doing well, artists should chase after producers, and not the other way around. It's good that there are groups like ABS-CBN's Talent Center that groom their own stars, although they build them up for TV."

My work on TV was not as important as my movie career. Stars nowadays do films once every two years. TV is their bread and butter, jam 'na lang nila ang' movies

THREE in the '60s. Amalia with co-stars Romeo Vasquez (left) who would become her husband and then ex, and Greg Martin

Do our part

She thinks the slump in the movies started after the 1994 Manila Film Festival scam. Then-Mayor Alfredo Lim of Manila had suspended the festival following an awards night scam involving movie reporter-talent manager Lolit Solis, the awards night's talent coordinator, as well as Ruffa Gutierrez and Gabby Concepcion.

"The movie industry suffered a lot because of that brouhaha," says Amalia. "Movie people lost their credibility, and they also lost the interest of moviegoers in local films. I think we should all do our part in reviving it."

Her father, Alvaro Muhlach Sr., died when Amalia was five years old. Her mother, Concepcion Amador, then married Isagani Fuentes, from whom Amalia took her screen surname. She is the eldest of six children.

A die-hard fan of Sampaguita talents Gloria Romero and Nida Blanca, Amalia Muhlach persuaded her mother to go with her to a "Holiday in Movieland," a weekly event where movie stars made themselves available to sign their autographs for fans.

"Sound engineer Joseph Straight spotted me, took my pictures, and after a few months, I found myself doing my first movie, 'Movie Fan,'" Amalia recalls.

After the fire

Amalia was the first Filipino woman to become a Lux soap model, putting her in the ranks of Hollywood beauties Jane Fonda and Debbie Reynolds, who also modeled for the soap brand.

Now that she has stopped making movies, Amalia spends most of her time at home, with her second husband, Joey Stevens, and their son Geric, who is 19 and taking up Economics at Ateneo de Manila University.

Liezel, her daughter with actor Romeo Vasquez, lives in another part of Quezon City with her actor-husband Albert Martinez and their children Alyanna, Alissa and Alfonso.

Amalia had her hands full after a part of her other house in New Manila was burned two weeks ago. A cigarette butt thrown by a construction worker started the fire, she says. The part that burned was a basement room which held most of her family's old furniture.

"I can say that I'm a lot busier now (in business and at home) than I was in the movies," she says. "My mother took care of everything when she was still alive. It's now my turn to run the household. It's hard being a housewife."

Long life, good health

She says she has not completely closed her doors on show business. "I just don't want to do roles that I will be ashamed of later on, like being part of cheap bold movies," says the star with one of the most beautiful faces in the movies. "I'm not a hungry young actress any more. I think I've earned the right to pick roles that would make me shine."

She dreams of becoming like the late Jessica Tandy, who won her Oscar best actress award for her performance in Bruce Beresford's drama "Driving Miss Daisy" when she was 81, or Gloria Romero, now 69, who won a second best actress award for "Tanging Yaman" three years ago.

"There is always a place for an actress at any age," Amalia declares.

She says she has lived a full life and has no regrets. She has traveled to more places than anyone she knows and has been successful in almost all of her business ventures, she says.

"I only wish for a long life and good health," she says.

"And I hope I'm still around when the movie industry finally experiences its rebirth."

THERE'S A LOT of life in Amalia yet, and she wants to duplicate the award-winning feats of Gloria Romero, 69, and the late Jessica Tandy who was 81 when she won an Oscar. "There is always a place for an actress at any age," she says.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Introducing: Tristan and Gregg

ENRIQUEZ

SHOW STOPPER

TWO new faces have joined the stars of Viva Films: Tristan Enriquez and Gregg James, Fil-Americans both who are now busy with commercial and ramp modeling and the movies.

Tristan is soft-spoken and seems to know what he wants and how to get it. Born in the Philippines, Tristan was barely two when his family settled in San Francisco. After graduating from college and then working as a systems administrator in the US, Tristan, 23, came to the Philippines to check out the "stress-free" environment he had heard so much about.

"It is almost stress-free except for the traffic," Tristan says of his native country. "I have fond memories of growing up here. I remember 'Eat Bulaga' and I'm glad I'm still able to watch it on TV. It reminds me of how things were."

Tristan had a chance to appear in a crowd scene in the America blockbuster "Matrix Reloaded." "My friends and I signed to be part of the crowd that danced feverishly in the movie," he recalls. "But the waiting was so long that I had to give it up."

Then, last year, Tristan joined the modeling tilt Bodyshots in Manila,

INTRODUCING/C6

JAMES

Introducing: Tristan, Gregg

From page C5

and won the Most Photogenic title. Modeling offers started coming in soon after, until Tristan decided to stay.

He appeared in "Lupe" which starred Andrea del Rosario (he was the earthy carpenter), and in "Pangarap Ko'y Ibigin Ka" with Regine Velasquez and Christopher de Leon. Soon, he will be seen in "Keka", starring Katya Santos.

Gregg, the other new face, was born in Chicago to a doctor dad and a nurse mom. He also grew up in that windy city. Now familiar to locals as the KFC guy, Gregg had also appeared in commercials in the US. For a while, he worked as a project manager for a phone company. In search of a "dream job," Gregg flew to to the Philippines for a five-month vacation in 2001. He was supposed to go back to the US when 9/11 happened, and his parents advised him to stay put in the Philippines where he would be safer.

"When I went back to the US, I had culture shock," says Gregg, 21. "Things were pretty much different after Sept. 11. To top it all, I had a hard time looking for a job. I was finally able to get hold of a job as a loans officer but I was not very happy."

Gregg was yearning to come back to the Philippines.

"This country grew on me," he said. "I love the food, the weather. I love its people and the way people find time for their family and friends. During my stay in Iligan City, where my father is from, I learned about the culture and the language. I still can't really speak the dialect but I can definitely understand it."

His friends and relatives encouraged him to join the movies. Gregg was in the movie "Pangarap Ko'y Ibigin Ka." He will be appearing in "Walang Makakapigil" starring Jolina Magdangal and Dingdong Dantes.

The new show biz careers of Tristan and Gregg are being managed by Viva and Edwin Zayde of Casting Coup.

Stars brighten up clinic opening

ONE of the leading cosmetic surgeons in the country, Dr.Raul Guanzon, will formally open his third clinic today, July 18, at 6 p.m.

The launch will be attended by luminaries from entertainment, business and politics, headed by Ms Gloria Diaz and Fanny Serrano who will cut the ceremonial ribbon.

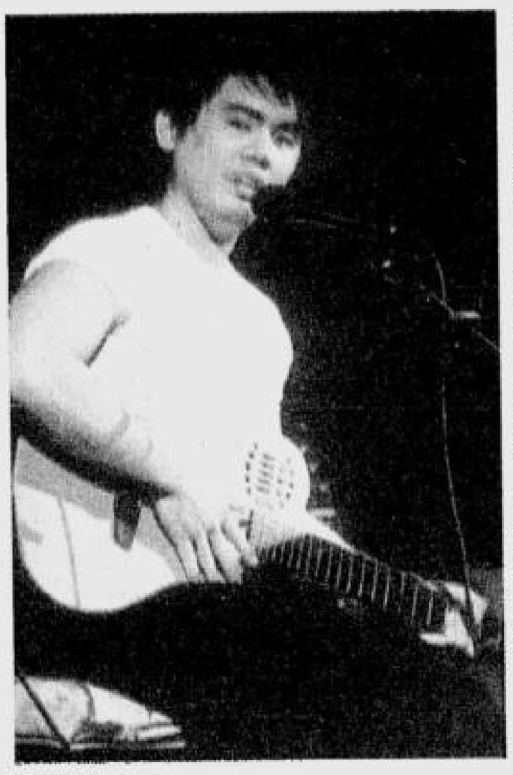
The event will showcase the latest in laser treatment technology.

The Dr. Raul Ganzon Cosmetic Surgery and Laser Center is located at the Webjet Bldg. in Acropolis, Libis, Quezon City.

Also expected to grace the occasion are actor and Video Regulatory Board Chair Bong Revilla, Viva Boss Vic del Rosario, sexy star Maui Taylor, Gen. and Mrs. Gregorio Camiling, Gen. Bobby Lastimoso, Annie Ferrer, talent manager Jessica Rodriguez and sportsman-husband David Bunevacs, The Quizon brothers Ronnie, Epy and Boy2, singers Kyla and Joanne Lorenzana, and supermodel Cathy Mora, among many others.

The affair will be hosted by Regine Tolentino.

Jimmy Bondoc at ease with his new look



THE SINGER, now.

By Fred Samantela
Contributor

SHOW TIME

ONE recent rainy night, we listened to and watched Jimmy Bondoc sing at the Moomba Bar in Quezon City.

He's grown his hair a bit longer and he no longer wears gel. And he now has a full band backing him, with a no-nonsense sound system.

Jimmy's repertoire has grown since we last saw him perform. He is more relaxed now and his Top 40s numbers are spiced with spiels.

That night, he looked cool and fresh, a far cry from when we last met him, when he was fidgety and he sweated during his set.

We finally heard his own hit, "Let Me Be The One." The previous time we saw him, he had said it was a potential hit.

He was right, and it is a good song. It's said to be the story of Jimmy's girlfriend who broke up with him, but whom Jimmy still cared for a lot.

Jimmy now says he's so completely blown away by the success of "Let Me Be The One" that the characters in the song are now strangers to him.

His guitar playing has become tighter. Jimmy seemed in high spirits and he did not look tired or frayed. He didn't even seem to have aged a day.

He would probably look this way even at 40.

Jimmy has finally found the "look" he wanted to go with his music. During a break in his set, we commented on this, and he was surprised that we noticed it. But we later found out that the "look" got him into trouble several weeks ago.

He was a guest on the Sunday noontime show, "SOP" on GMA 7, and he had been asked to wear something formal, but he refused to do so. He insisted on his casual get-up, to complement his song.

Well, the next thing he knew, they threatened to send home another singer he was supposed to do a duet with if Jimmy didn't put on a coat. Apparently, Jimmy was not told earlier about the formal wear. He decided to go home instead. Another singer took his place.

What's with the coat?

"I don't know" was all Jimmy could say, in a strained voice, before he stood up to greet friends and strangers in the audience that night.

This July, Jimmy Bondoc performs on Wednesdays at Hard Rock Café at the Ayala Center in Makati City.

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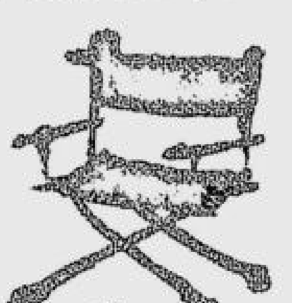

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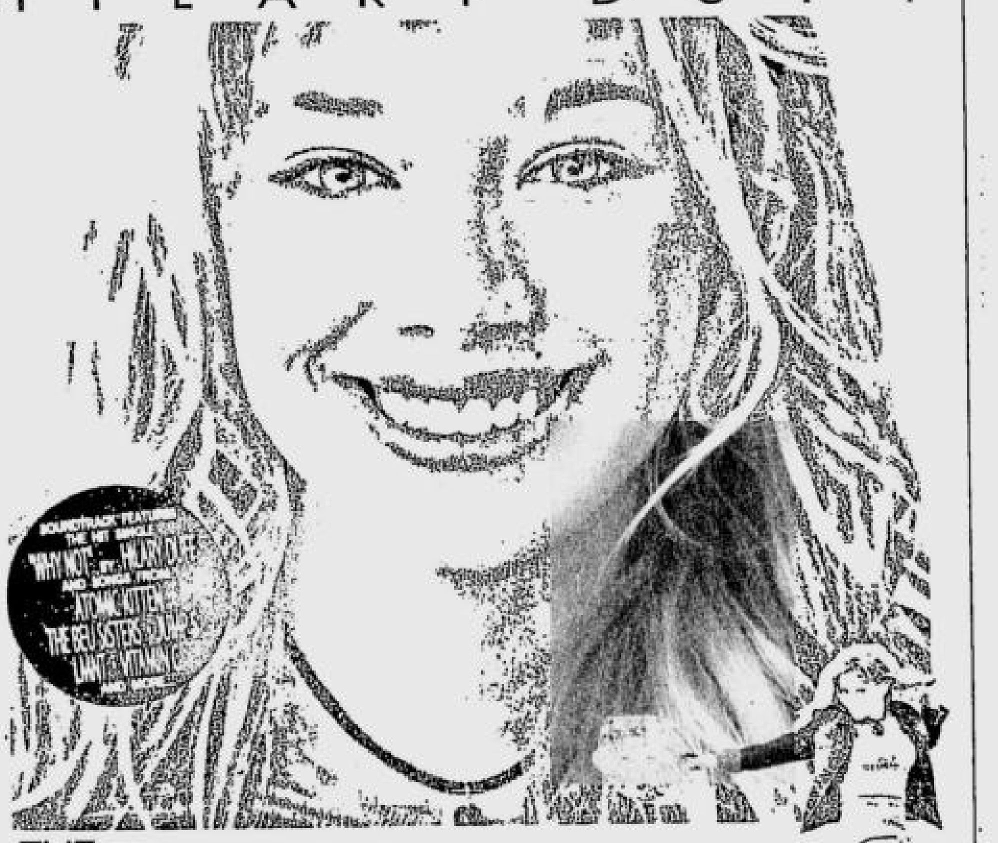

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Rambo without the muscles

HUNTER AND HUNTED. Jones (left) and Del Toro in face-off

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

REVIEW

IF YOU asked me a month ago, I would have said I wouldn't see a film with a plot like this even if you paid me. After a barrage of good advertising, though, and even better hype, I reconsidered.

"The Hunted" is a film that somewhat wears its story on its sleeve. You can make out what it's all about going by its title, tagline and trailer.

Taken at face value, it's a very simple film. It consists of Benicio del Toro (the hunted) and Tommy Lee Jones (the hunter, as usual) involved in one wild and often bloody chase, through the woods, through city traffic, on a rugged mountain, on board a train, along a rampaging river, and it seems most everywhere else. Before every change of scenery, Jones would catch up with Del Toro, they would struggle, and the latter would escape. Somewhere in this repetitive exercise, you are, of course, expecting a final confrontation.

We've seen it all before, and it doesn't take a lot of guessing where. The characters are all too curiously familiar. Jones' L.T. Bonham, an expert tracker going after a murderer, is just a shade different from Jones' Sam Gerard, the US Marshal who relentlessly went after Harrison Ford in "The Fugitive", and Wesley Snipes in its sequel, "U.S. Marshals."

The difference is, Bonham is hunting Rambo. Aaron Hallam is the same killing machine Sylvester Stallone was in "First Blood," only without the rippling muscles. He prefers to use his bare hands and a menacing, military-issue knife as his weapons when kicking the living hell out of the film's supporting cast.

Like Richard Crenna's role in the Rambo films, Bonham is a father figure to Hallam, having taught him how to kill and survive. Bonham, though, is not a military officer but a civilian contracted by the military to teach their men.

Prestige values

When the film opens, we find Hallam, along with his Special Forces squad, embedded in the midst of a gruesome ethnic cleansing spree being carried out by Serbian soldiers in an Albanian village. His mission is to take out the Serbian general behind the massacre, and this he does in style, slicing and dicing him and earning a Silver Star for it.

But the horrors he saw in the village has scarred him psychologically. Years later, we see him back in his country, ensconced deep in the woods (of Oregon, supposedly), stalking and killing deer hunters, fueled by the belief that he must do so to protect the innocent (including Bambi's mother) from being butchered.

When the FBI can't figure out who the killers are (they cannot believe it's just one man), they turn to Bonham who immediately recognizes that the handiwork belongs to one of his former trainees. And so the chase begins.

There's a lot of prestige value in "The Hunted," as it features three Oscar winners. Its director, William Friedkin, won Best Director for "The French Connection," which was also the Academy's Best Picture in 1971, and who also directed the horror classic "The Exorcist."

Few movie spectacles are more satisfying than great performers playing deadly rivals. Del Toro and Jones, both of whom bagged Oscars for supporting roles—Del Toro in Steven Soderbergh's "Traffic" (although I think he was the lead in that film) and Jones in "The Fugitive."

Unfortunately, there isn't much more behind this film than the weight of those who made it.

Ridiculous

"The Hunted" is a fine example of big-budget campiness. Friedkin, Jones and Del Toro may provide a hedge against the ever-present threat of the film turning into a B-movie, but it is a pointless hedge. One gets the feeling that these people are here just to collect their paychecks.

I'll admit to enjoying the film on a certain level. I snickered frequently, although I'm not quite sure whether the film's writers intended "The Hunted" to be as humorous. The screenplay moves back and forth from being sketchy to obvious to downright ridiculous. Jones, for instance, plays a lone wolf character, so when we first see him, it's in the snowy woods, where he's trying to set free a white wolf from an illegal trap. He tells the wolf to be still and it stands and obeys him without so much as a growl.

Now Bonham may be a super tracker, but he's not St. Francis!

In another sequence, right in the middle of a chase, Hallam finds time to fashion a knife out of scrap metal and rig a booby trap involving two huge logs suspended from trees. How he does these things is one question, but the better one to ask is why would he do them when Bonham is hot after his trail and he needs to put some distance between them pronto? Then, perhaps just to give Hallam time, Bonham also gets to make his own knife out of shards of rock. Apparently, the modern weapons at his disposal are of no use in the wilderness.

There are a lot of things like these in "The Hunted" that do not need to happen, but they happen just the same, in order for Del Toro and Jones to have one "classic" confrontation after another. I could go and on about this. And maybe I will, just once more.

The first time Bonham gets into the forest to track Hallam, a gorgeous FBI agent who looks like Connie Nielsen (it is Nielsen in a now-you-see-her, now-you-don't role) asks to tag along. He refuses, telling her he doesn't work that way. Who in his right mind would not want to have a moment alone with Nielsen?

White knuckles

You have to give the film its due, though. When Hallam and Bonham are doing battle, the tension in the theater is truly of the white knuckle variety. I've rarely seen grittier fist and knife fights than the ones depicted here. The film makes every punch, elbow, kick, slash and stab register on the senses. You feel like the brute physical action is indeed happening right before you and it gets the adrenalines pumping.

When the actors get hit, the frisson is real. You see and hear them panting, grunting and struggling, and just like in real fights, things are not as pretty. There are no invisible suspension chords or computer generated enhancements to make it look like a ballet.

"The Hunted" is the kind of brawny entertainment guys talk about in those macho delirium-filled all-male gatherings. It's enjoyable under the right circumstances.

If you could ignore the glaring silliness of the plot, then you're in for a fulfilling ride. Otherwise, follow Friedkin, Del Toro and Jones at your own peril.

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Ali 4	BANGKOK HAUNTED
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Ali 6	DOWN WITH LOVE
Ali 7	IMPOSTOR
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TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	UNFAITHFUL CUNCUBINE/KANA 2
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
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A	TERMINATOR 3
B	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-2	HUNTED
CINEMA-3	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATTOR 3
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
CINEMA-6	TUKAAN
CINEMA-7	HOT SPOT
CINEMA-8	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	DOWN WITH LOVE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATTOR 3
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
CINEMA-12	JACKASS
CINEMA-14	IMPOSTOR
CINEMA-15	BANGKOK HANUTED
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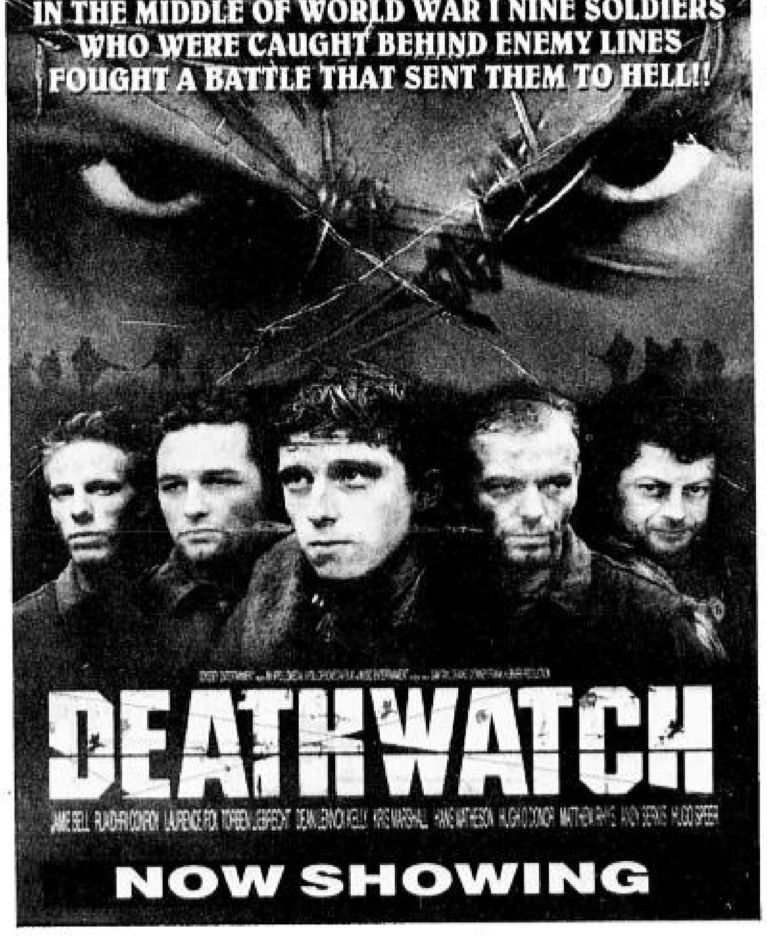

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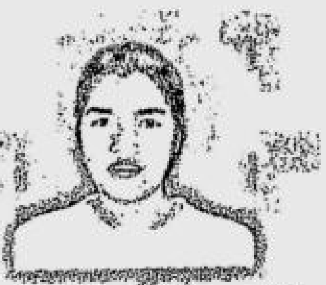

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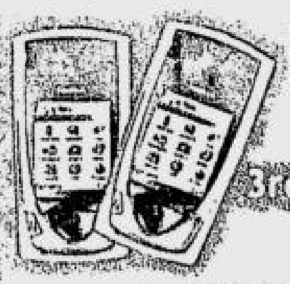

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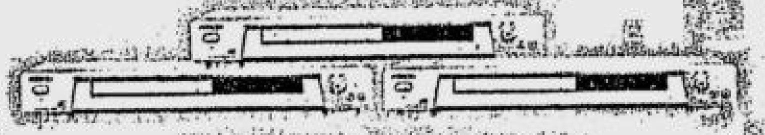

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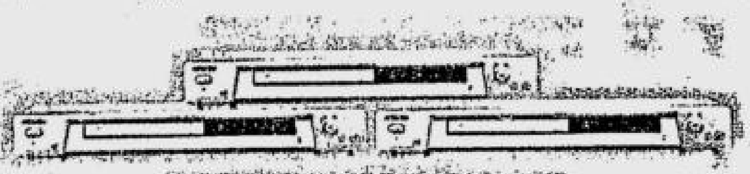

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Better known locally as La Suerte, aglaonema thrives in places where most house plants will perish

Aglaonema, the no-fuss garden plant

Aglaonemas in the Philippines
By Benito S. Vergara
Published by Island Publishing House, Inc.

Philippine Aglaonemas
By Simeona V. Siar
Published by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development, Department of Science and Technology

By Tita V. Giron

REVIEW

GARDEN lovers with brown thumbs—or those who think they cannot grow plants—can rejoice now. Here are two exciting publications on the no-fuss plants called aglaonema.

Sturdy, stress-tolerant and easy to care for, the hardy plants will survive in dim light and low humidity. In other words, aglaonemas thrive in places where most house plants will perish.

The two booklets provide basic information on how to grow the plants, what their popular names are, and what are needed to propagate them—just what "brown thumbs" need to gain gardening confidence.

Three-fourths of the books are devoted to photos of species, variations, and hybrids of plants found in Philippine gardens.

An old garden favorite, native aglaonemas were believed to bring luck, hence the popular name La Suerte.

It is not surprising to find them today in gardens all over the country because they still grow in abundance in rainforests and mountains. Aglaonemas are found in other parts of Southeast Asia.

Horticulturists also keep coming up with attractive new hybrids, many of them using Philippine species for breeding.

Rich source

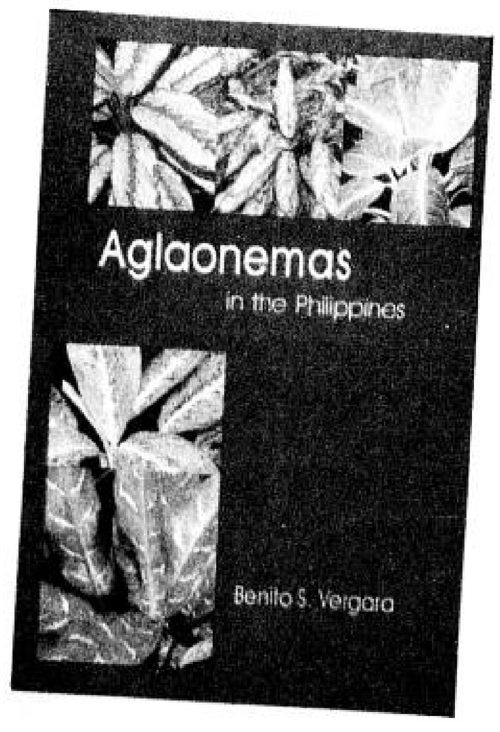
The Philippines is famous as a rich source of aglaonemas. Many attractive plants in the world market originated here, including beautiful hybrids created by Filipino breeders and hobbyists.

For example, the aglaonema illumination, bred by Filipino hobbyist Dr. Romeo Gutierrez, is said to be the most expensive and most beautiful commercial hybrid in the United States.

There's one reason for today's renewed interest in these plants worldwide.

A frequently cited experiment of the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) reported that aglaonemas are pollution-busters. The plants were number two on Nasa's list of Top 10 plants found effective in cleaning the air of toxic formaldehyde,

AGLAONEMAS/ D2


Aglaonemas
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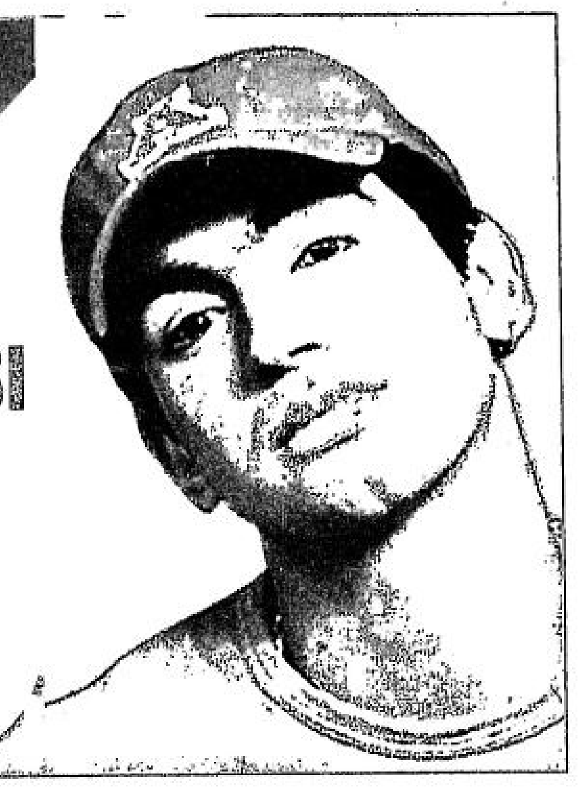
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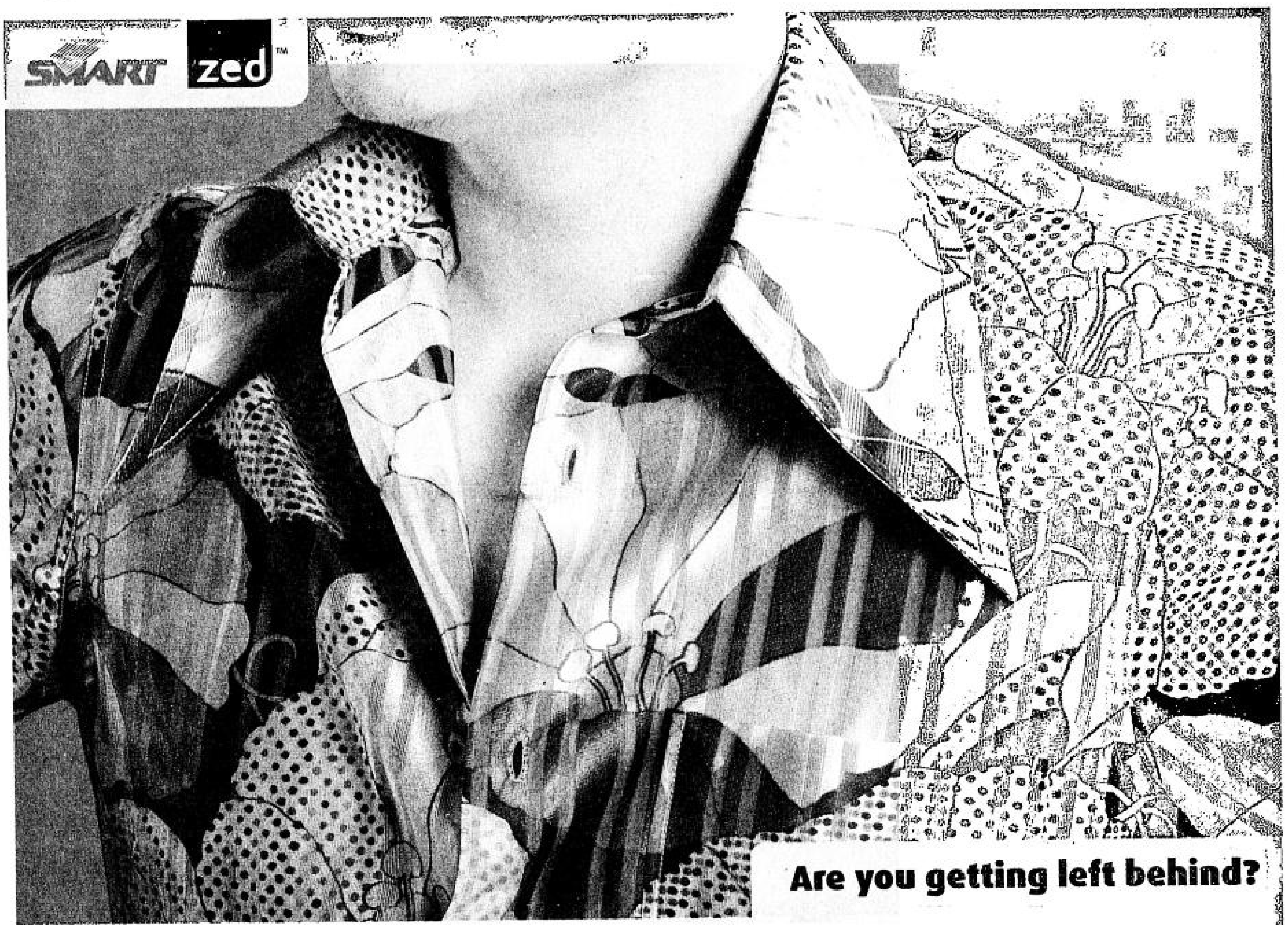

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3	Can't Lose You	*F4*	TONE CANTLOSE
4	Meteor Rain (Liu Xing Yu)	*F4*	TONE METRAIN
5	Meteor Garden Ending Song	*Penny Dai*	TONE METGARD
6	Broken Vow	*Lara Fabian*	TONE BROKEN
7	Foolish Heart	*Nina*	TONE FOOLISH
8	In Da Club	*50 Cents*	TONE INDACLUB
9	Hero	*Enrique Iglesias*	TONE HERO
10	All I Have	*Jennifer Lopez*	TONE ALLIHAVE
	On The Horizon	*Melanie C*	TONE ONHORI
	More Than A Woman	*Aaliyah*	TONE MORETHAN
	Try Again	*Aaliyah*	TONE TRYAGAIN
	Along The Watch Tower	*Jimi Hendrix*	TONE WTOWER
	Out Of Time	*Blur*	TONE OUTIME
	Love Doesn't Have To Hurt	*Atomic Kitten*	TONE LOVEDOESNT
	Handbags And Gladrags	*Stereophonics*	TONE HANDBAGS
	Clocks	*Coldplay*	TONE CLOCKS
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	Chuva Choo Choo	*Jolina Magdangal*	TONE CHUVA

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Plant art workshops

MINI waterfall Zen gardens have become very popular decorative pieces for the home or office.

Ikebana Professor Serapion Metilla recently held a demonstration on how to make these mini gardens.

Photo at right shows Professor Metilla with his students: (front row, from left) Malou Tumuran, Adrian Malano, Peter Howel de la Llana, Zeldy Buenaflor Gomez, Edna Guevarra, Ichi Duque, Lechu Lim and Joma Cada Anonuevo; (back row) Happy Belicina, Thelma Nambu, Carolina Lobongco, Sal Dungca from New York, Rosalinda Teodoro, Arlette Dizon, Teresita Limquiaco, Manolito Barundia, Serapion S. Metilla, Perlita Dyogi, Francisco Datar, Lorenza Calpotura from California, Cynthia Villanueva, Carolyn Lobongco and Arturo Excabillas.

The next course on mini waterfall Zen gardens will be on July 19-20 at Mett's Plant Art, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank compound, Edsa cor. Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. On July 27, the topics will be dish gardening and terrarium-making.

Call 939-4593.

Aglaonema, the no-fuss garden plant

From page D1

benzene and carbon monoxide.

According to the authors of the two publications, "Aglaonemas are excellent indoor plants because they have been proven to absorb pollutants, especially in air-conditioned rooms."

The first parts of both books introduce the plants and describe where and how they grow best.

Vergara writes, "Aglaonemas prefer partial shade. Many will grow even in dark areas of the house and office rooms."

Siar says, "As long as the soil (potting mixture) is well drained, aglaonemas will thrive well in dim light and will survive in both dry and low humidity conditions. But the soil should never dry out completely."

Detailed instructions

Siar's book does not have side bars like Vergara's, which talks about the lighter side of local collecting and hybridizing.

But she does have one advantage. She gives detailed step-by-step instructions on how to hybridize aglaonemas, with generous photos and captions in simple layman's terms.

For example, she teaches readers how to find the sexual parts of the flower to commence pollination. After finding the parts, the reader is then advised to collect pollen from the male parent by dusting with fingertips moistened with stigmatic fluid, and transferring pollen to the selected part of the female parent.

The pollinated part is then wrapped in a clear bag, tagged and dated. If the pollination is successful, the ovaries will enlarge. Colors change from dark green to yellow, then orange, and finally red as the fertilized fruits mature.

Vergara, on the other hand, writes with ease. His book is also full of human interest, like when he talks about how plant enthusiasts collect and grow aglaonemas.

In one chapter, he writes, "It was the excitement of the horticultural world in 1980 when Romeo Gutierrez, Frank Brown, Zac Sarian, Noni Dolera and Vic Saplala discovered in Rizal province (Daraitan, Cainta) a community of Aglaonema commutatum in March of that year... It was only Dr. Gutierrez, a surgeon, who made use of the collection for breeding new, exciting hybrids. To date, many new hybrids [worldwide] have been attributed to him."

Both authors feature very interesting aglaonemas found in the local commercial market and in private collections—a total of 43 varieties for Siar and 52 for Vergara. The captions of photos in both books are delightfully written in layman's words.

No-frills captions

While Siar gives direct, no-frills description of plants in her book's photographs, Vergara adds spice to his captions by citing newsy trade tidbits such as his description of the aglaonema banlang thong: "One of the most beautiful hybrids in the market, also very expensive."

Of aglaonema Cebu, Vergara's caption reads, "Dark-green, bright, narrow leaves with bright-green midrib and margins and silvery indistinct variegation... Collected from Bicol by Jack Craig, who probably named it 'Cebu' because he had a furniture shop there."

Siar describes the same variety thus: "Leaves are linear, green with irregular light/pale-green pattern. Midvein and petiole are dark green. Cebu is a variegated form of *A. philippinense var. stenophyllum...*"

Both books are delightful gardeners' companions. They provide information that has never before been offered in any single book.

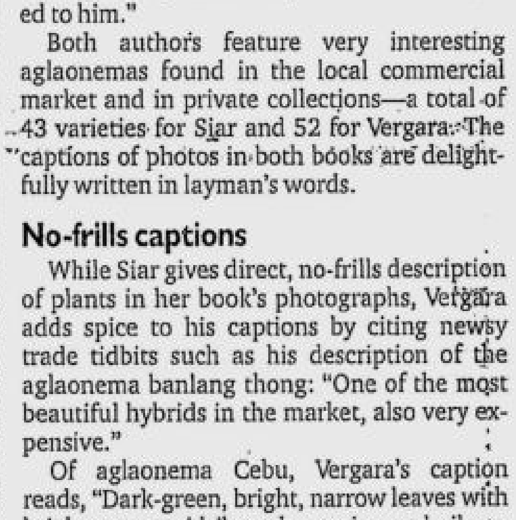
As PCARRD executive director Dr. Patricio S. Faylon writes in the introduction to Siar's book, "Except for a few technical works published on the taxonomy of aglaonemas, little information is available to ornamental growers and interested lay persons... This [booklet] would provide amateurs and professionals a reference for easy and efficient identification of species, cultivars and hybrids of aglaonemas with photographs."

For more information on the two books, write to PCCARD, Los Baños, Laguna.

Send e-mail to pcarrd.@ultra.pcarrd.dost.gov.ph or call 837-1651 for Philippine Aglaonemas/Siar.

E-mail bvergara@laguna.net or Aglaonemas in the Philippines/Vergara or write to Island Publishing House, Suite 606, Doña Amparo Bldg., Cataluña St., Sampaloc, Manila.

E-mail the author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph



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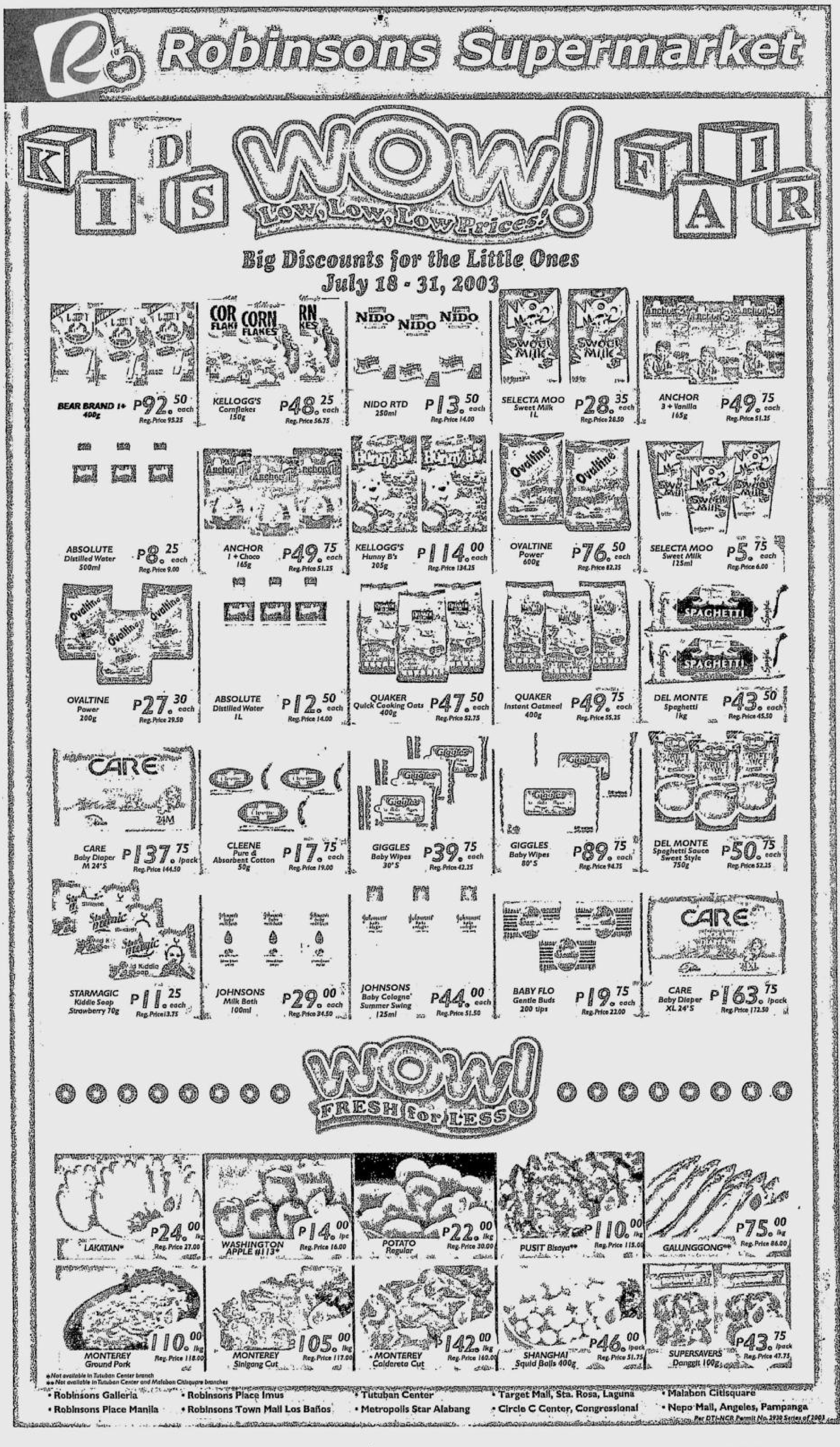

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Workshop on how to handle one's grief

A PASSING Through Grief Workshop will be held July 18-20 at Alberione Oasis in Antipolo City. Four trained counselors who all hold diplomas in family ministry and counseling will assist participants. Call 647-1186 or 0917-4172774.

GOINGS ON

INAUGURATION. The Butterfly Sanctuary of Las Piñas Garden Club will be inaugurated on July 19, 9 a.m. at Philam Village Park in Pamplona. A garden sale is ongoing until July 30. Call Nora Padua at 873-2341 or Elsie Lahoz at 872-5215.

BOOKFAIR. The 7th Academic Bookfair is ongoing until today, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., at UP Bahay ng Alumni, Diliman, QC. Its theme is "Of books and bytes: Connecting people, information and technology."

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP. The Society of Portrait Photographers of the Philippines will hold "Basic and Beyond Photography" workshops on Aug. 5, 10 and 17 at the Product Development and Design Center Philippines, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Call 806-1346; 821-7978; 0916-4693388; and 0917-4118339.

NON-FORMAL COURSES. The UP Open University offers Personal Entrepreneurial Development and New Enterprise Planning non-formal courses on July 19-Dec. 20. Orientation is on July 19, 1-4 p.m., at UP-OU, Los Baños, Laguna. Call (049) 536-6010 to 6006 local 821 or e-mail fms@upou.org.

FESTIVAL. Bohol celebrates Sandugo Festival this month. It coincides with the 2nd Tigum Bol-anon Tibuok Kalibutan, a grand homecoming of Boholanos from all over the world which happens every four years, and the biennial convention of the Confederation of Boholanos in the USA and Canada.

SEMINAR. The Institute of Communication of the University of Asia and the Pacific will hold a seminar on Planning and Measuring IMC Campaigns: Customer Valuation and Return on Customer Investments on Aug. 7, 1:30-5:30 p.m. at the PLDT Lecture Hall of UA&P. Call 637-0912 to 26 local 232, 634-0321 (direct line) and 634-2827.

TRADE EXHIBIT. Don Bosco Technical College's trade exhibit titled "Galing Busko, Galing Busko" will be held July 28-30 at Glorietta 3, Makati City.

CONCERT. Flutist Antonio Ruiz Maigue and pianist Ismael Najib will perform on July 20, 4 p.m., at Pinto Art Gallery, 1 Sierra Madre Grand Heights, Antipolo City. Call 697-1015 or 722-9205.

ITHACA Enterprises offers a new line of specialty herbal soaps. These are Virginity Soap for women, Sensual Hygienic Soap for men, Bleaching Soap, and Savone Whitening Soap. Call 921-6418.

EXHIBIT. Floriade, the latest exhibition by Ivi Avellana-Cosio, is ongoing at Le Souffle Bistro Ortigas until July 31. Thirty paintings in oil pastel on paper and acrylic on canvas depicting a variety of flora are featured. Le Souffle Bistro is located at Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Ruby Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

ITALIAN CLASSES. The Philippine-Italian Association announces the opening of the Italian Classes for Beginners. The class is a 40-hour course that starts on Aug 12, every Tuesday and Thursday from 2-4 p.m., at the PIA Secretariat, 2/F, Zeta Bldg., 191 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Call 815-1310.

WORKSHOPS. The Center for Health and Creative Arts (Chacra) offers the following workshops for personal growth and psycho-spiritual development: "Unravelling the secrets of personality," Aug. 9-10;"Meditation for beginners," Aug 25, 27 and 29; "Intensive journal-writing program," Aug 14-15 (Part I: Life Context), Aug 16-17 (Part II: Depth Contact), Aug 23-24 (Part III: The Journal Feedback). Call 434-5381 or 0919-7405791.

Ikebana's new officers inducted

THE IKEBANA International (Manila Chapter 108) recently held its induction of a new set of officers for 2003-2005: Celia "Ping" Guevara Lazaro, president; Joyce Kato, first vice president; Nonette Hubilla, second vice president; Emy Dimayuga, recording secretary; Aida Villanueva, assistant recording secretary; Nancy Uy, corresponding secretary; Adoracion "Dory" Sangly Bernabe, treasurer; Anding Dulalia, board member; Amrita Mankad, Asian Liaison officer; Vangie Cheng, immediate past president; and Serapion Metilla, press relations officer; Shirley Lee, assistant treasurer and lawyer Pacita delos Reyes Phillips, parliamentarian.

The officers were inducted by Madame Mayumi Igawa, wife of the Japanese deputy Chief of Mission.

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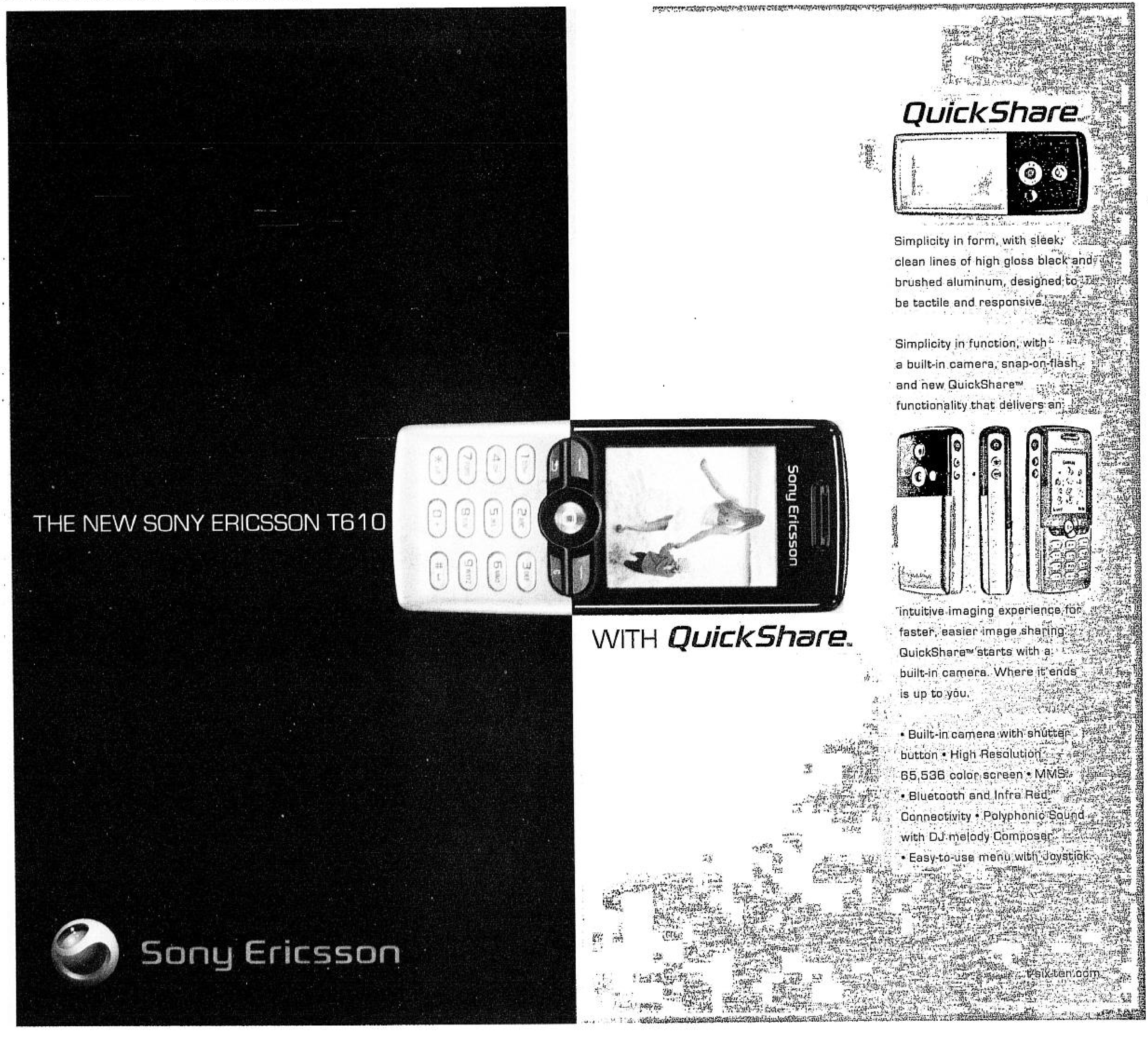

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FREE Chicken Skewer at Thai In A Box for every order of three grilled items
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FREE Dessert at Italianni's for a minimum purchase of P500 in a single transaction
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One **FREE** Chicken Dish of your choice at Gerry's Grill for a minimum single purchase of P650
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Merienda muna...

WHO'S THAT GIRL? Wearing an Azabache gown

MARYANNE TINIO

Unorthodox lady

She can dress in vintage or her daughter's clothes and get away with it

By Anton San Diego

MARYANNE Tinio saunters into the "Charlie's Angels" premiere wearing her trademark look: mini skirt and fun top (red deconstructed shirt with a photo of Al Pacino as Serpico). She "illicits" a second look from the moviegoers.

The attention she gets is not typical of a woman her age and stature.

STYLE-EYES

SHE'S GOT THE LOOK! Wearing a red deconstructed shirt and mini skirt.

But Maryanne is not your typical lady. Where most would opt for the lady-who-lunches look, she would dress in vintage clothes or even in her daughters' clothes. She is a free spirit, the original hippie chick. A woman whose sense of style is not limited by age or boundaries.

There are very few people I know who have that knack for wearing unorthodox fashion and getting away with it. Maryanne is her own person and will not be dictated by society's norms. As she told me once, "Life is short, you can't let people tell you what to do. Most importantly, you need to have fun!"

Define style.

Webster says "distinction, excellence, originality and character in any form of artistic expression."

Describe your personal style.

As long as my legs show, then it's for me.

Do you think you are stylish?

Maybe different, 'but not particularly stylish.

If you were to make a best-dressed list, who would be in it?

Layla Gunther, Giles William Floodgate

Who do you think is a stylish man?

Frank Thissen, John Mcinnes

Who are your favorite local/ international designers?

Azabache, Alaia, Betsy Johnson, Dolce & Gabbana

If you had a makeover, whose style would you emulate?

UNORTHODOX/ E2

WHAT'S ON
at Robinsons

GARY V.
It's no less than Mr. Pure Energy celebrating the 2nd Anniversary Bash of Robinsons Place Novaliches. Catch him live for this mall show and autograph signing activity.

[illegible]
Central Atrium
Robinsons Place Novaliches

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22 (am) AUTHENTIC BUDDHA JUMPED OVER THE WALL SOUP, STEWED TAPEFISH. FRIED CRISPY SKIN PIGEONS, STIR FRIED BEEF WRAPPED IN LETTUCE.
23 (am) CRABS W/ SALT & CHILI, DRIED SCALLOPS W/ BEAN CURD SOUP. EIGHT PRECIOUS DUCK STEW, FRIED PAMPANO W/ CATSUP.
24 (am) SHRIMPS W/ CRISPY TARO, FUJIAN FRIED RICE, SINGAPORE STIR FRIED BIHON, BIRD'S NEST W/ CRAB MEAT.
25 (am) CHICKEN SLIVERS W/ CRISPY TARO, SINGTOH EGG ROLL, SHRIMPS CUTLET, STIR FRIED BEEF W/ KANGKONG.
26 (am) FISH HEAD IN NOODLES, SALTED FISH FRIED RICE, CRYSTAL SHRIMP BALLS, STIR FRIED BROCCOLI W/ SHRIMP BALLS.
28 (pm) ROASTED PORK (ASADO), PICKLED VEGETABLES
29 (am) ROASTED CRISPY SKIN CHICKEN
(pm) WHITE CHICKEN, SOY SAUCE CHICKEN, ASSORTED SOYED DISHES
30 (am) PEKING DUCK
31 (pm) ROASTED SUCKLING PIG
Aug. 02 (am) CHICKEN FEET, SPICY SPARE RIBS, ALMOND GELATIN.
19 (am) CANTONESE STYLE MOONCAKES (DEFINITELY THE LAST TIME TO OFFER, 4 SLOTS LEFT)

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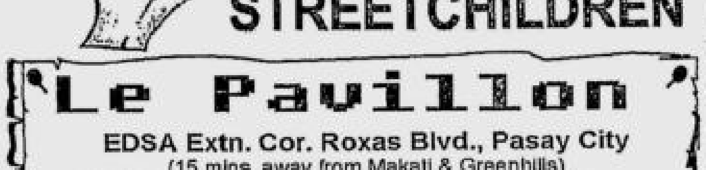

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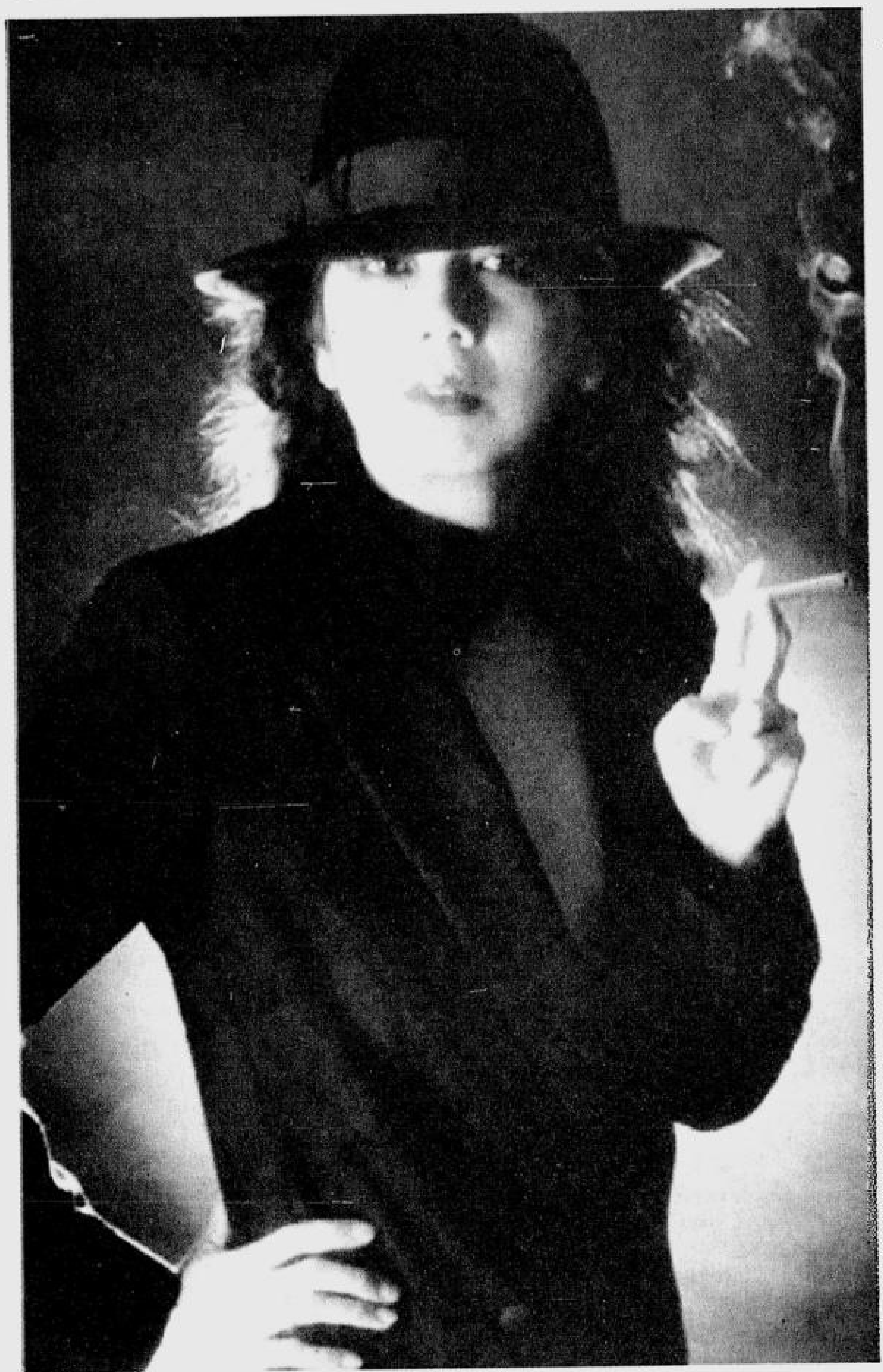

BOND LADY. In a fedora cap and Ermenegildo Zegna lady's tux

Unorthodox lady

From page E1

Madonna.

What did you wear on your wedding day?

Sweet-little-girl look, my farewell to innocence.

What is your biggest extravagance?

Weekly manicure and pedicure

What do you wear at work?

Mini-skirts

Secret shops?

It's a secret.

How has your mother influenced your style of dressing?

My mother always made sure that I was dressed well and in the latest fashion.

A woman dresses to...?

Get everyone's attention.

Style tips?

Things don't have to match; just have fun.

Beauty secret or regimen?

Exercise and moisturize.

Favorite fashion movie?

"Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle"

What has been your biggest fashion faux pas?

Wearing black to a Chinese birthday celebration (I wanted to blink my eyes and disappear).

If you could have access to anyone's wardrobe, whose would it be?

I have enough closets and *bauls* to go through.

What is on your wish list right now?

A bright, beautiful future for my children.

Which era would you have wanted to live and dress in?

I lived and experienced the best era of all—the '60s.

How would you define being a Filipina in the 21st century?

Proud and sure of herself.

AZABACHE GIRL. Wearing an Azabache gown

"I stopped touching her."
I didn't want to be in that situation again.

* * *

IT'S NOT that I didn't want to make *love*... I just could *not*... and I avoided showing affection, fearing things might lead *somewhere*...

UNTIL I learned I had a medical condition called ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION. It affects 87 million men in Asia, but it's very treatable. My doctor prescribed a treatment for me, and since then, *romance is back in our marriage.*

* * *

KNOW
MORE about it

Now there's a new treatment for ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION. If you think this can help you or your spouse, don't hesitate to consult a doctor. You can also call the CIALIS HELPLINE at 1-800-1-888-2436 or visit www.cialis.com.ph to know more about ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION and this new treatment.

COOL CHICK. At the Iguazu Falls, Brazil wearing an Alaia leather jacket and beret

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER. With youngest daughter Alessandra on her graduation

Chic chart

Toiletries

Shampoo/Conditioner: Citre shine
Toothpaste: Aqua fresh
Soap: Palmolive
Scent/Perfume: Bench Bubble gum

Makeup

Lipstick: Shu Uemura Rouge 4
Moisturizer: Shu Uemura Beta G Gel Creme
Blush: Shu Uemura Pastel Fluos
Foundation: Shu Uemura Water Perfect
Eye Shadow/Mascara: Shu Uemura Boutique Birthday Palette in pink and orange
Sunscreen: Shu Uemura UV Underbase and Total Defender

Clothes

Jeans: Hot Kiss
Top: Azabache
T-shirt: Atom boy, Deconstructed Serpico
Pajamas: Men's P.J.'s
Lingerie: Top Shop

Accessories

Handbag: Lollipops
Watch: Sidewalk purchase in New York
Shoes: Faith
Sneakers: Addidas, Diesel

Others

Restaurant: Zen, Shikanzen, Courtyard and Sala
Poison: Stolichnaya Cristal
Coffee/tea(where?): Home
Lifestyle store: Kish, Pineapple
Music: Snap, Dragon Ash, Eminem
Stationery: Postcard giveaways
Bottled water: Perrier
Florist: Myself
Soda: Thomas Kemper handcrafted soda orange crème flavor
Gym: Red Corner boxing gym
Magazine: Ginza, JJ

Fashionable shoes for people on the go

HUSH Puppies, the all-American casual footwear brand established in 1958, known for its functional shoes for both men and women, is stepping up its footwear line with the introduction of many versatile and fashionable styles.

The shoe brand, popularly known for the basset hound icon, is synonymous with comfort and fit. After all, the name traces its origins to an experience of the company's first salesman, Jim Muir.

Muir stopped for dinner at a friend's house who served him catfish with fried cornmeal dough, called hush puppies. Curious why it was called such, he was told by his friend that farmers "use them to quiet their barking dogs." During that era, "barking dogs" was an American expression for tired, sore feet. And that very day, the comfortable shoes that soothe aching feet, Hush Puppies, was born.

Years later, Hush Puppies still answers the need for relaxed and comfortable footwear yet adding a dimension of fashion and style.

The Hush Puppies footwear collection boasts of shoes that are functional to highly fashionable. Such styles go great with corporate dressing, casual chic dressing or even street fashion.

Thanks to Hush Puppies' Zero Gravity technology, Hush Puppies shoes are guaranteed to be lightweight and flexible—perfect for those who are always on the go!

Hush Puppies stores are located at Festival Mall Alabang, SM Southmall, SM Fairview, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Metro East, SM Cebu, Ayala Cebu, Robinsons Cebu, SM Pampanga, SM Cagayan and SM Davao.

ON KENJI: Conzumel in haystack tumbled nubuck

ON GEORGETTE: Carrera 3

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Per DTI-NCR Permit #1849 Series of 2003

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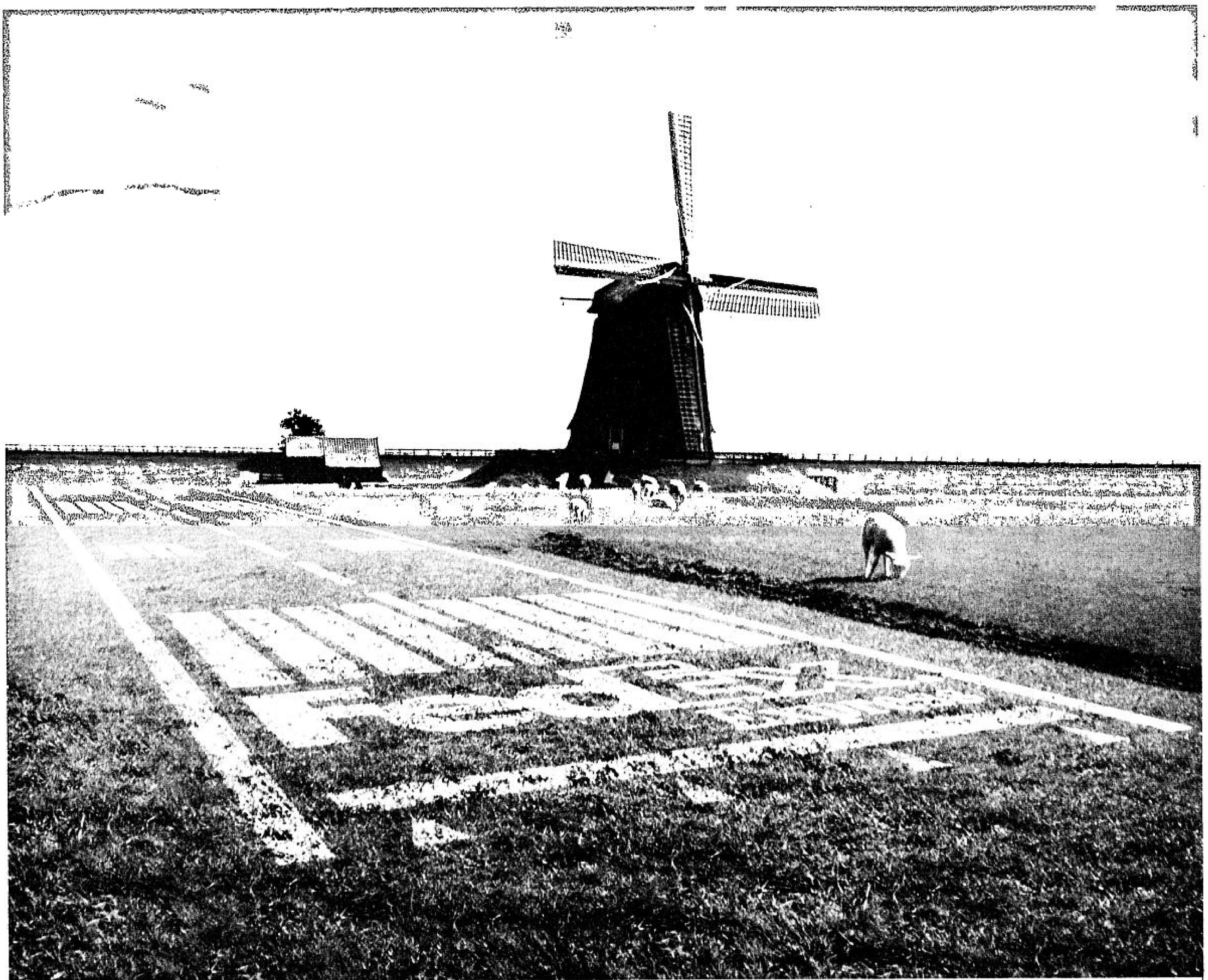

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The revolutionary Aptos thread seamless facelift is easy, painless and—best of all—leaves no scars

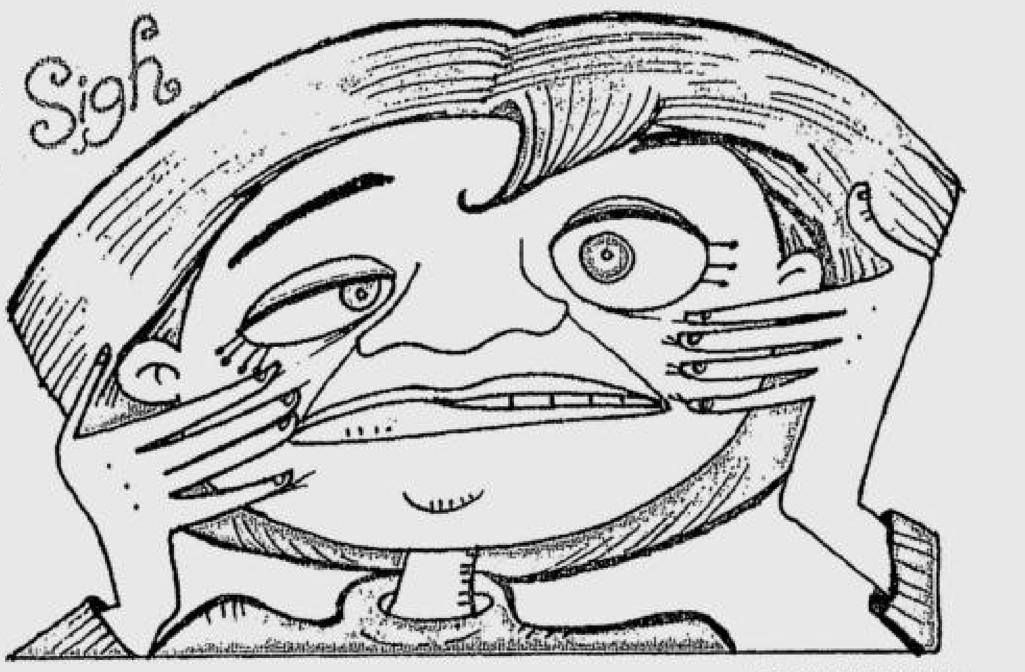


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Youth hanging by a thread

IN 1999, Marlen Sulamanidze, a Moscow-based Georgian cosmetic surgeon, invented the procedure he called Aptos thread seamless facelift.

"Ptosis" is a medical term meaning "drooping", so Anti-ptosis became Aptos for short.

Sulamanidze's objective was to have the benefits of facelift without having to cut off loose skin, leaving scars and inflicting pain. The procedure involved inserting a needle and his patented Aptos thread into the subcutaneous layer of the skin so the threads would anchor themselves onto tissues.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

I couldn't imagine how this method could be painless, with no skin cuts and literally only drops of blood; so I asked permission to watch an Aptos operation. The 50-year-old patient agreed; I held my breath and dove in.

Background: Dr. Vicki Belo trained with Dr. Marlen and his son George, and they have contracted her to teach the procedure to registered surgeons. They even send her to other Asian countries to talk about and demonstrate the procedure.

"Aptos" is a patented name for the thread designed and invented by Sulamanidze. They are blue cogged threads (a.k.a. sutures) made of compounds which are biocompatible with the human body, so they will not cause harm.

The threads look like ordinary blue plastic threads, but up close they are equipped with very small teeth lying flat, which will fan out upon contact with inner skin tissue.

These threads have been copied by other doctors, but such copycats are not as firm and may snap under the skin. Dr. Belo gets hers directly from the Sulamanidzes.

Procedure: The patient's face was lined with markers and the entry points were injected with local anesthesia. The needles were then inserted into the area she wanted lifted.

In this particular case, the patient opted for the Nasolobial folds—those deep folds which run from the side of the nose to the edge of the mouth. These folds are what usually give age away—what some people call "bulldog cheeks". People with fat cheeks are more prone to these folds, as they droop with advancing age.

The Russian surgeons would often do the procedure without anesthesia and with the patient wide awake, but Dr. Belo opted to sedate the client to lessen trauma.

During the insertions, there were no reactions of pain or "cringing". Dr. Belo said the only pain one would feel is similar to that of a pinprick.

Bloodletting was minimal, and was easily cleaned up with cotton swabs. The thread was then inserted through the needle, which was extracted soon after and anchored to certain tissues in the face. The thread will fan out when it gets under the skin, and anchor onto the skin tissues.

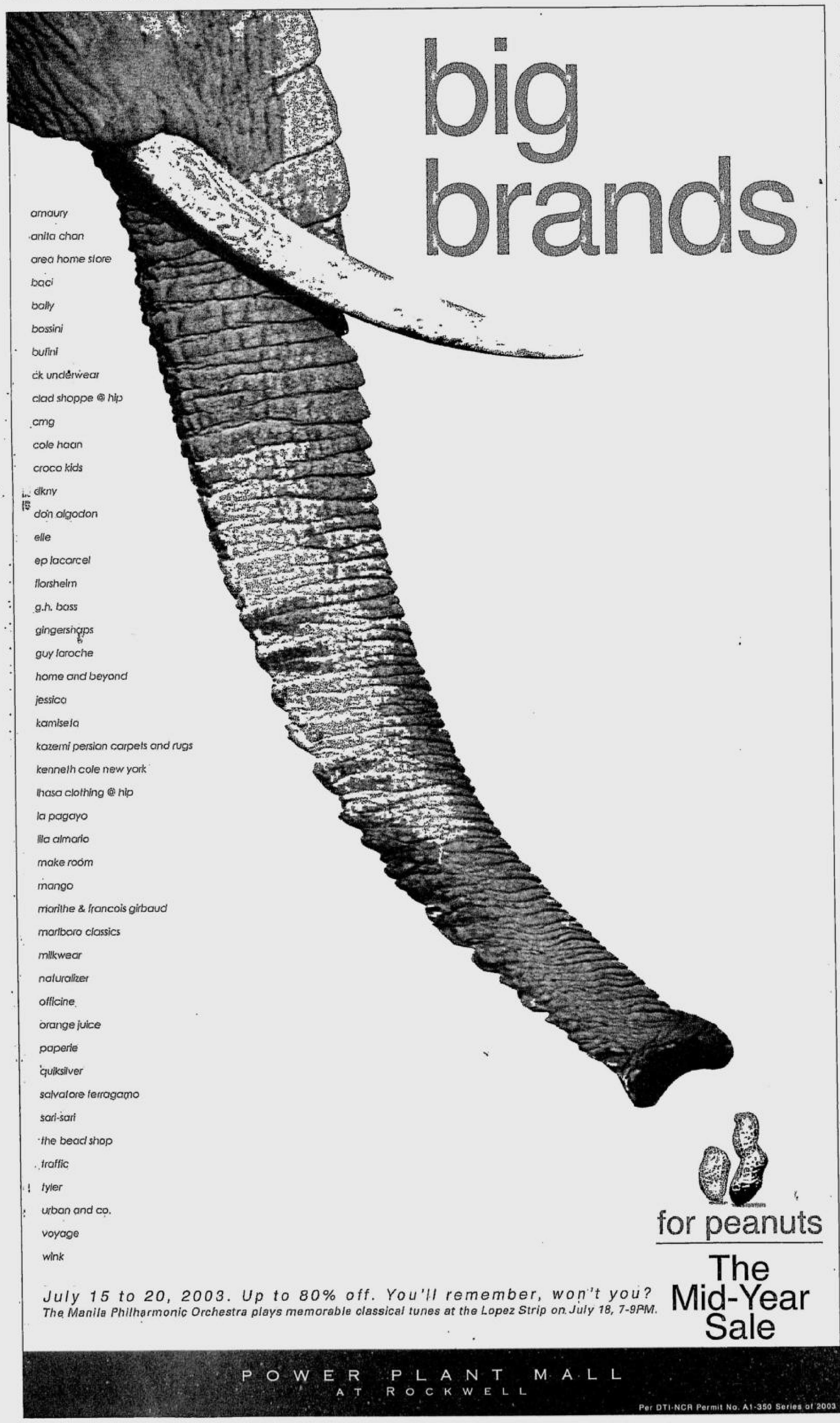
The entire procedure lasted no longer than 40 minutes. Upon getting up, the patient was given an ice bag, nothing more. She is allowed to resume her regular activities. Her bruises will last up to two weeks, but can be easily covered with a good concealer.

Sure enough, the procedure left no scars, and the only side effect was that the person would be unable to laugh out loud for at least the first few days. Certain areas of her face will feel prickly sensations, but these will subside in a couple of days.

The result: There is definitely a big improvement after the swelling goes down, as the skin becomes firmer and smoother. But results will actually peak after a few months, when collagen has grown around the thread. These benefits can last for ten years.

The best part is, people won't be able to prove you've had something done on your face because of the absence of scars. You can wear any hairstyle you like, because you don't need to hide anything!

The Belo Medical Group has five clinics: Makati 817-7178/9283, cell phone 0917-8398982; Morato, Quezon City 373-3188/4088/3355, cell phone 0917-8320576; Alabang Town Center 807-2212/842-3213, cell phone 0917-8409275; Greenhills 725-7255/727-4208, cell phone 0917-8913762; and Tektite Ortigas 637-3676/77, cell phone 0917-8409268. Email belomed@pacific.net or visit www.belomed.com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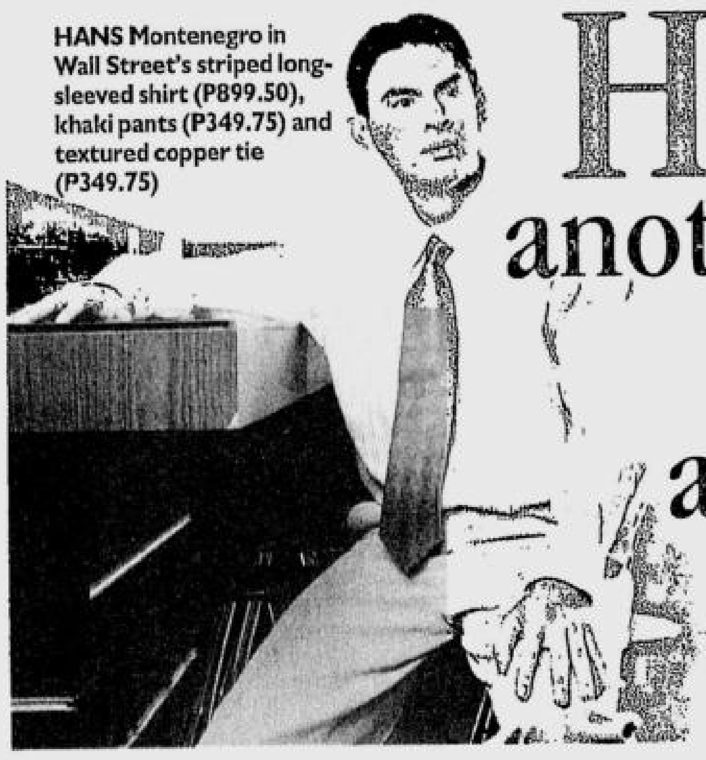
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-350 Series of 2003

Trend Spotting LIFESTYLE



HANS Montenegro in Wall Street's striped long-sleeved shirt (P899.50), khaki pants (P349.75) and textured copper tie (P349.75)

Hans gets another chance in life and love

Detachment is his way of breaking free from the past and taking control of his destiny

Story on page F3

Real People. True Stories.

"My job and family keep me 'young on the inside' – on the outside, it's definitely Imedeen! It's not just for your face -- over-all conditioning talaga!"

Zina Rosales,
events planner, mother of two teenagers,
'proud to be vain'

How can you best enjoy a life packed with blessings? For Zina Rosales, it's by staying vibrant and young in spirit – with skin to match. That's where Imedeen comes in. "Imedeen enhances my skin all over, not just on my face... I started to see aging signs on my neck, but with Imedeen it's now supple and even-toned." Unlike creams and lotions, Imedeen works from inside to help strengthen the inner layers of the skin where aging starts. That's why Zina, a self-described 'beauty cynic', looks young and feels confident. As she puts it, "No one notices the age difference when I'm with my young friends!" Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.

Ultrasound images of the skin structure: First photo shows photodamaged dermis; second photo shows denser structure which implies better support and ability to hold moisture.

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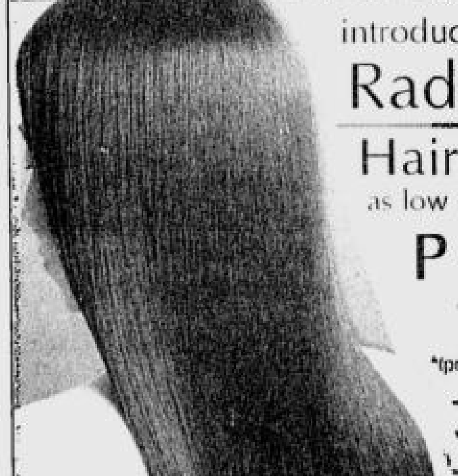

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SMART CRUMBLE

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CONSUL of Belize Helen Ong with her husband Dr. Luciano Ong

ROBERT and Helen Lim

KRISTALLE with mom Nympha Yatco in Bulgari jewelry

EYE-CATCHING PAIR. Rovi Estacio and sultry beauty Charissa Litton

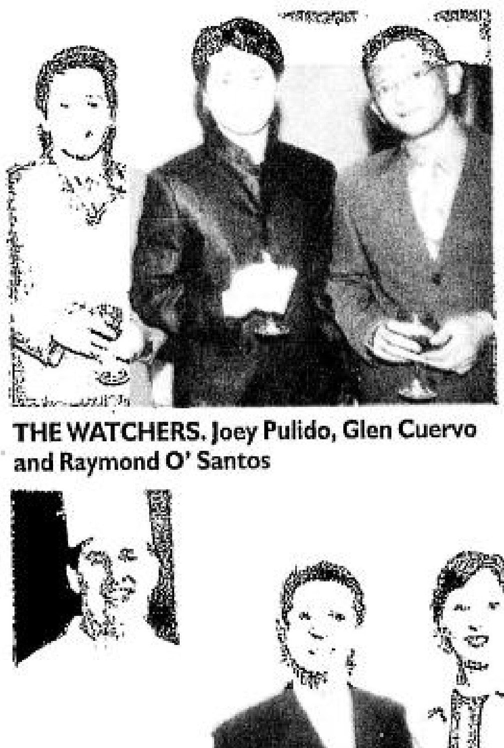
Bulgari goes 'Allegra,' Bea Zubiri says 'I do'

HOSTS with the most. Restaurant 12 royals Liza and Elbert Cuenca

THERE'S no age when it comes to jewelry. Mia Borromeo and Karen Santos

NINI Valdez (seated) with Rumples and her mom Vikki Estacio

WORK hard, play harder. TV's glamour gal Ces Drilon


THE WATCHERS. Joey Pulido, Glen Cuervo and Raymond O' Santos

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on Kodak Max

BULGARI, the globally acclaimed style icon from Italy, has come out with another super winner—the "Allegra" jewelry collection. The collection was launched in a two-night dinner-cum-fashion show at the chi-chi Cheval Blanc of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

The "Allegra" show was unique, with a delightful twist. It was directed by **Jackie Aquino**. Cosmo Manille's top mannequins paraded in ethereal white evening gowns designed by **Ann Chaves** and **Marian Lazaro.** Their hair and makeup (the soft, upswept hairstyle showed off the precious pieces adorning the necks), were by **Danny Katalbas** and **Joseph Claraval** of Emphasis Salon.

The elegant Cheval Blanc was a sight to behold, with the floral artistry of **Robert Blancaflor** of 1816 on every table.

As an added treat, the hotel presented an "Allegra-inspired" haute cuisine as its talented executive chef **Christopher Romine** and executive sous chef **Thomas Figovc** whipped up a sumptuous set-dinner menu, *palanggas*.

They incorporated the different influences of the fascinating "Allegra" jewelry design and its effervescent colors into the food. So we witnessed and savored a combination of dazzling jewelry and culinary creations. Yes, dahlings, it was truly an event for the senses!

Confident and glamorous, Bulgari's collection of dazzling amethysts, blue topazes, yellow citrines as well as pink and green tourmalines bloomed in breathtaking perfect artistry.

Another delightful twist were the two gorgeous male models who appeared half-nude holding Bulgari's fabulous jewelry outside of the glass window of Cheval Blanc, as a highlight. Models **Gary Dulatas** from Manille and **Christian Waller** from Norway had many married and unmarried women wishing they could take home the jewelry and the half-nude models, too. Well, you just can't have everything, *palanggas*.

After the divine dinner, the models came out like Greek virgin goddesses in flowing white chiffon gowns, showing off more of the gorgeous jewelry.

Prices range from $285 for a black leather steel necklace to $31,000 for the necklace in gold, diamonds, pearl, semi-precious stones, green and pink tourmaline, blue topaz, citrine and peridot. I have no idea if they were sold, but I know of several women who bought a couple of those big girls' favorite toys—jewelry, natch?

One stunningly gorgeous blonde who was definitely the super eye-catcher of the affair made her entrance wearing an exquisitely designed soft champagne-colored gown, and refused to be photographed. *Moi* called her the "Greta Garbo" of the night. He was accompanied by her low-profile business-tycoon husband. Wow!

What a store Bulgari is, dahlings. Abroad, if you asked for something that costs less than $10,000, the Bulgari staff would look in the wastebasket.

Check out the "Allegra" jewelry collection now in Cosmo-Manille's Bulgari boutique, located at G/F, 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati. After all, dahlings, "Diamonds are still a girl's best friend."

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Bea Zubiri's big day

All is set for the wedding of the young Beatrice Lourdes ("Bea" to her pals) **Zubiri**, daughter of Bukidnon Gov. **Jose Zubiri** and glamorous socialite **Vicky Fernandez Z**, to super-nice Canadian **Matthew Scott Bannon**, son of Mr. and Ms **Arthur R. Anderson**, today at 3:30 p.m., at Our Lady of Angels Church in San Francisco.

A reception for 200 or more guests from Cosmo-Manille, Europe and San Francisco will be held at the picture-perfect Kohl Mansion, Adeline Drive in Burlingame, California.

Will tell you more about this sooner than soon, dahlings.

Malate nights

Malate was the scene of the fun-fun dinner hosted by super pals, design director **Jonathan Matti** and investor banker **Andrew Gan** of Deacon Holdings. They held the party in honor of 16 of their pack, just to say, "it's so nice to have you back where you belong," as the song goes.

Some complained, "the food was hit and run—some good and the others bad." It must be because owner **Colin Mckay** had his arm in a sling after a bad fall. **Leica Carpo** was with her man, **Juan Miguel Ongsiako.**

Also present were **Garrizon Rosseau**, formerly based in Hong Kong, now making the scene in Cebu; **Ann Marie** and **Loi Sanguil**; **Tina Tinio** and her southern knight, **Alex Ledesma**; and architect **Victor Consunji**, who had just jetted back from New York, *palanggas*.

The current moved on to the hip and classy Acquario Bar, then it skipped and hopped across the street to Fidel, where hot babe **Tina Pamintuan** and her hot boyfriend, singer and Broadway star **Paolo Montalban**, were holding court.

There was a bad scene at the door of Bed. A disappointed guest said she was harassed by a power-tripping staffer at the door. The guest declared, "I'm out of here. That's the last of Malate for me!"

Royalty

Friday night had those great royals of Restaurant 12—**Liza Ilarde**, whose lifestyle is just like her magazine, Lifestyle Asia, and hubby **Elbert Cuenca**—hosting a surprise bash to celebrate **Pepper Teehankee's** new column in another daily and mine in this paper.

I hate surprises! But Elbert must have gotten wind of that, so he called me up to say it was a "surprise bash for us," for fear I would not show up. So it wasn't a surprise any more, but it made me feel tons better.

While wealthy wives **Irene Martel Francisco** and **Mons Romulo Tantoco** had their drinks at Nuvo, their wealthier husbands, top cardiologist Dr. **Randy Francisco** and mega-businessman **Sander Tantoco**, cruised around the bars and restos of Greenbelt 2. Then they rushed to Resto 12 where all the best action was taking place.

Even **Nedy Tantoco** and **Patrick Jacinto** had dinner there earlier with their chi-chi set and stayed on and on until past Nedy's bedtime. That's what having a great Friday night-out is all about, dahlings.

At Pepato, on a rare night-out, was architect and interior designer **Anton Mendoza** with stunningly gorgeous **Nise Yabut Cojuangco** and her French connection and admirer, the renowned **Dr. Pierre Clero**. Joining them were hot twosome **Archie Rodriguez** and **Bea Valdes**. "When is the big day?" I asked. "Sooner than you may think, but you'll be the first to know," Archie answered. Okay! Sealed with a promise.

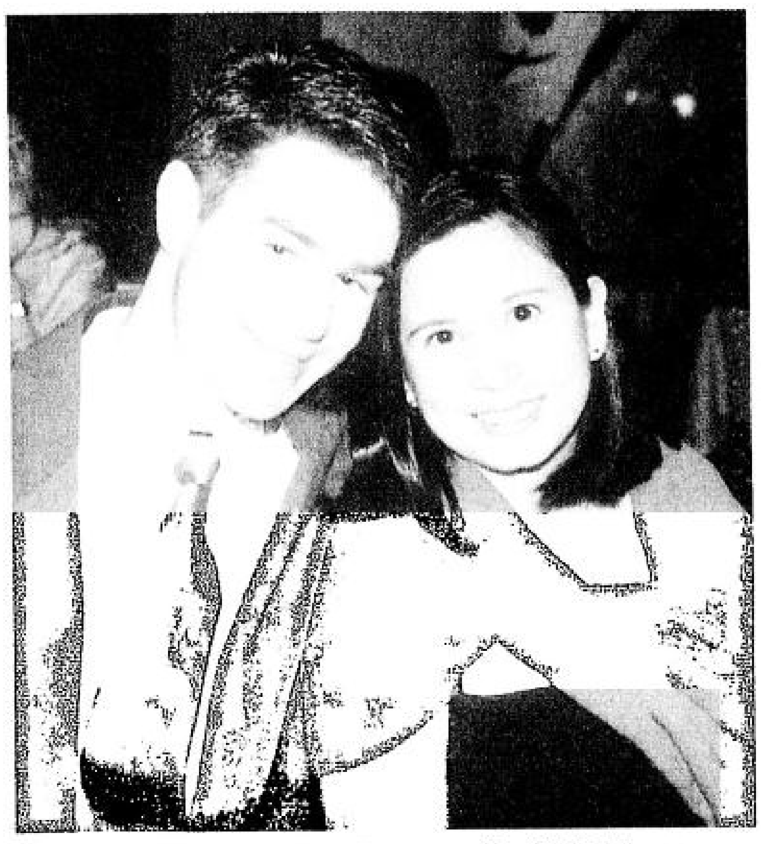
Like *moi* said in an earlier report, Dream Bar is resurrecting on Fridays. Stylish **Trisha Panlilio Cu-Unjieng** verified that when we chatted on Saturday, but I'll check this out myself.

From Dream, Trish and her pals headed for a very early breakfast at the Swiss Inn.

On Sunday, multifaceted businessman **Ernest Escaler** gave a bye-bye dinner for the gent who conquered Cosmo-Manille, Broadway star **Jose Llana.**

Businessman and restaurateur **Ricco Ocampo** also hosted a dinner for Hong Kong-based young lawyers **Aaron Puckett** and his wife, **Audrey Puckett**. Philippine Tatler editor and INQUIRER columnist **Anton San Diego** was one of the guests.

And who is that once-so-popular man-about-town who is doing the scene these days, hopping from one bar to another on the lookout for a babe—any babe for that matter?


LOVEY-DOVEY twosome Scott Bannon and Bea Zubiri all set to say their "I dos"

LEISHING Chan of Hong Kong Esprit with Manille's eligible bachelor Ricky Delgado at Resto 12

JUST PALS. Mike Huang and Nicole Schulze

KAI owners Rikki and Beng Dee came to wish *moi* and Pepper T. "all the success."

RICHIE Santos with stunning beauty Joy Hendrickson from Washington D.C.

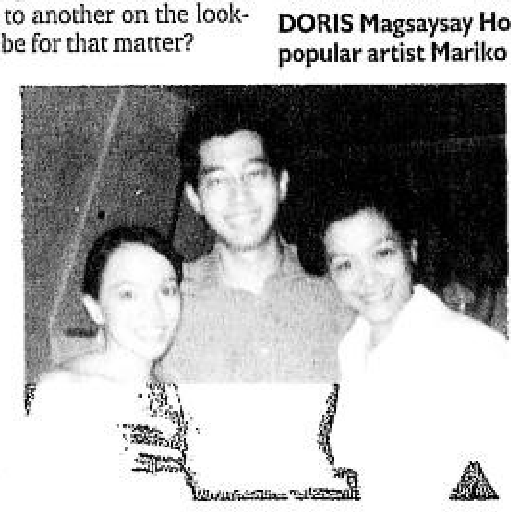
GORGEOUS beauties: Cebu's Amanda Luyum, Manille's Patricia Cu-Unjieng and Carmina Sanchez, with PR prince Keren Pascual

DORIS Magsaysay Ho with popular artist Mariko Jacinto

BANKER Raul Manzano with Mia Reyes and Grace Cecilio

THE GANG OF 4. Chef Christopher Romine, Bulgari country manager Mario Katigbak, Shangri-La Makati's Joy Wassmer and sous chef Thomas Figovc

SEEING DOUBLE. One of the honorees, Pepper Teehankee, welcomes popular pediatricians Aye and Ome Nuguid.


THE L'OREAL babes and dude. Rhea de Vera, Adam Hamzah and Cessy Colayco

HOT DUDES: Richmond Hotel executive JB Bautista, Sun Cellular executive Dondi Verano and Alvin Peñaloza

Hans gets another chance in life and love

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

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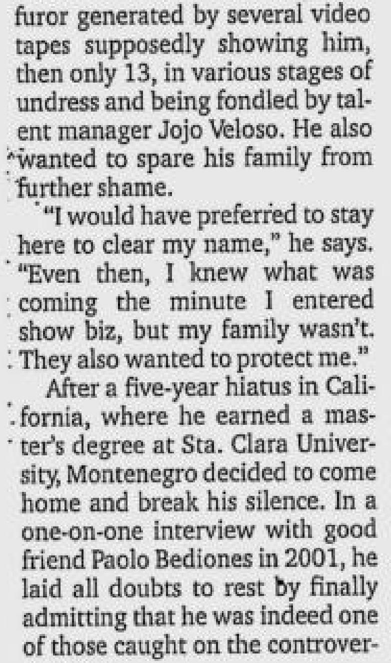
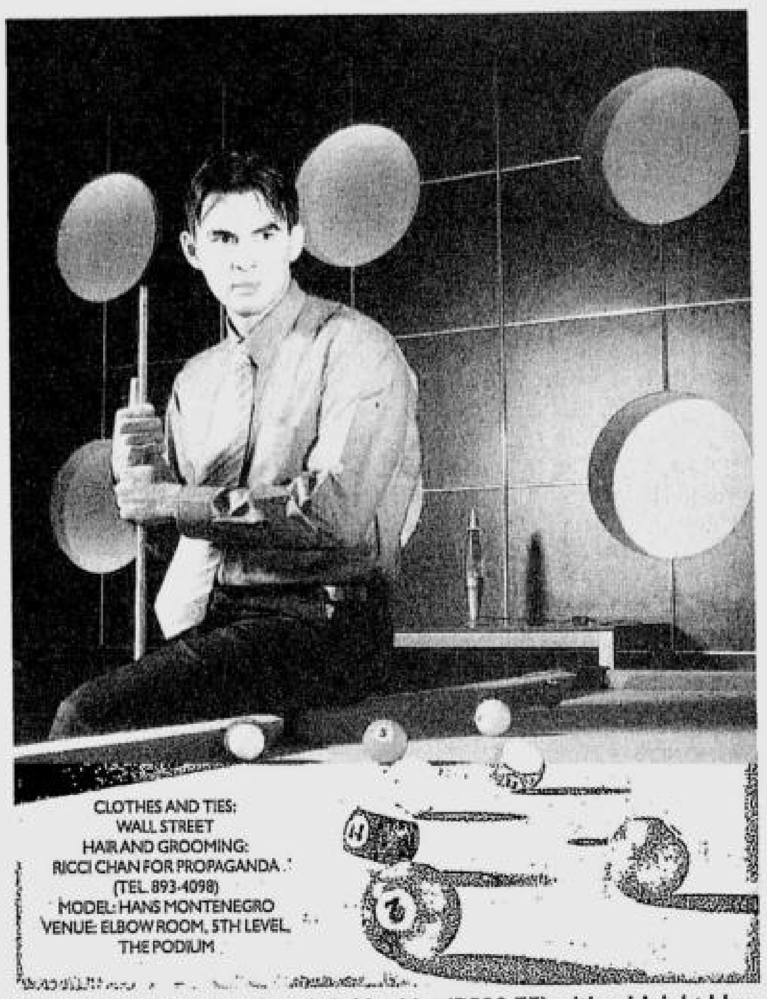


IN striped, long-sleeved black cotton shirt (P599.75)



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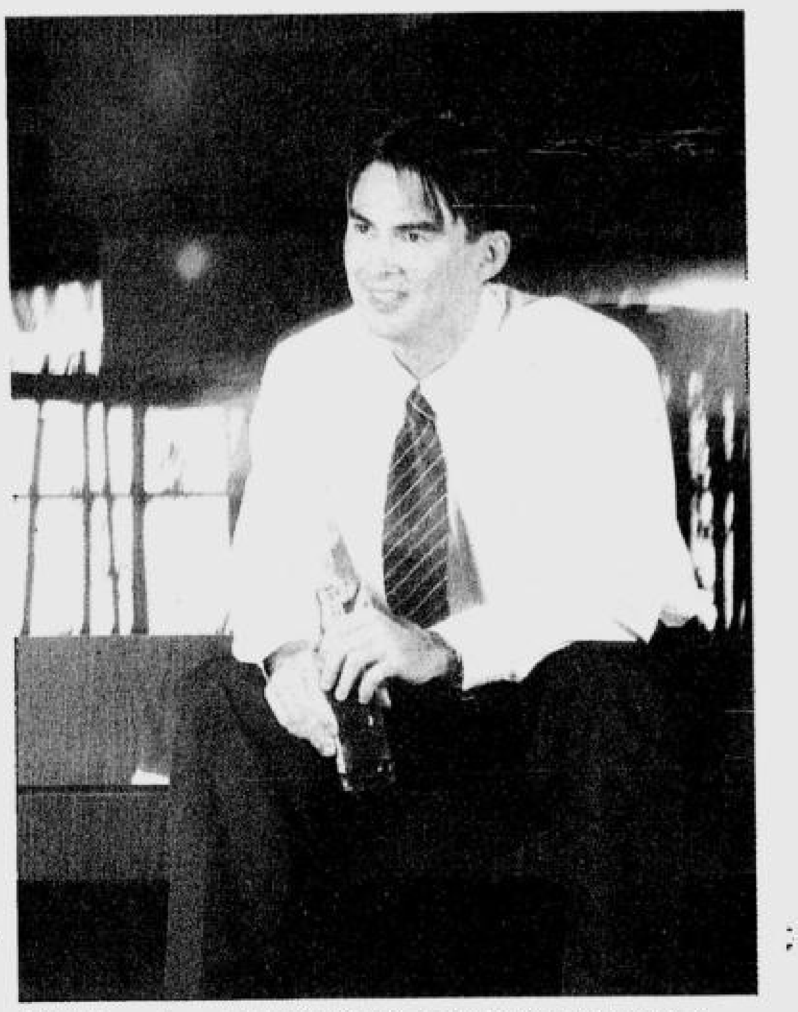

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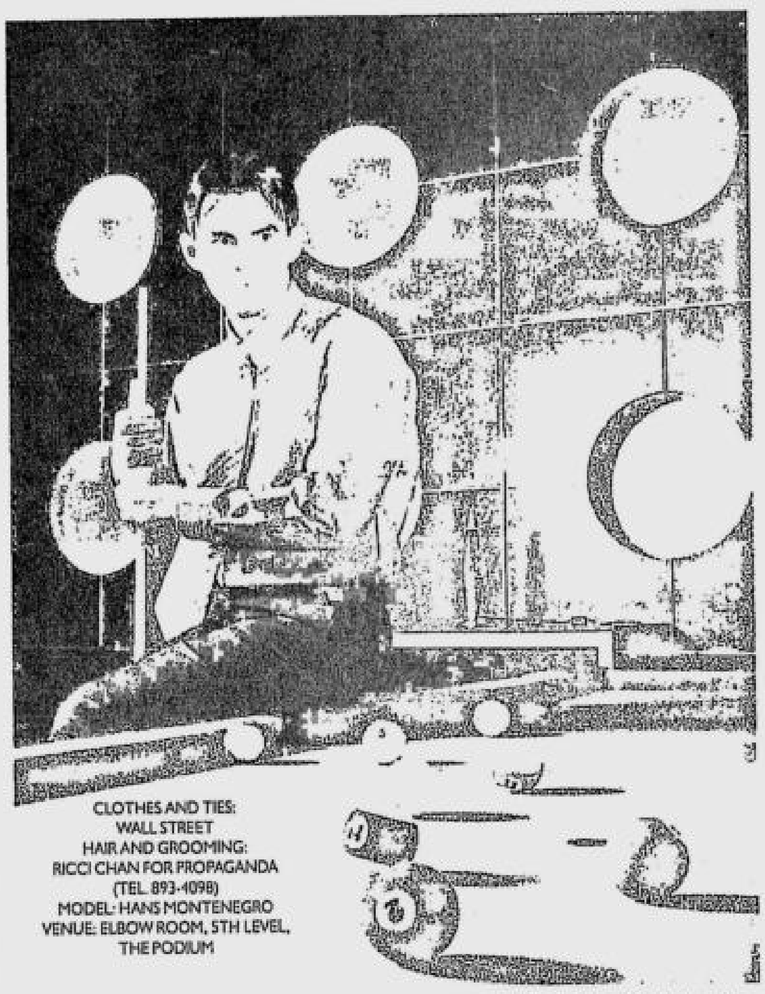

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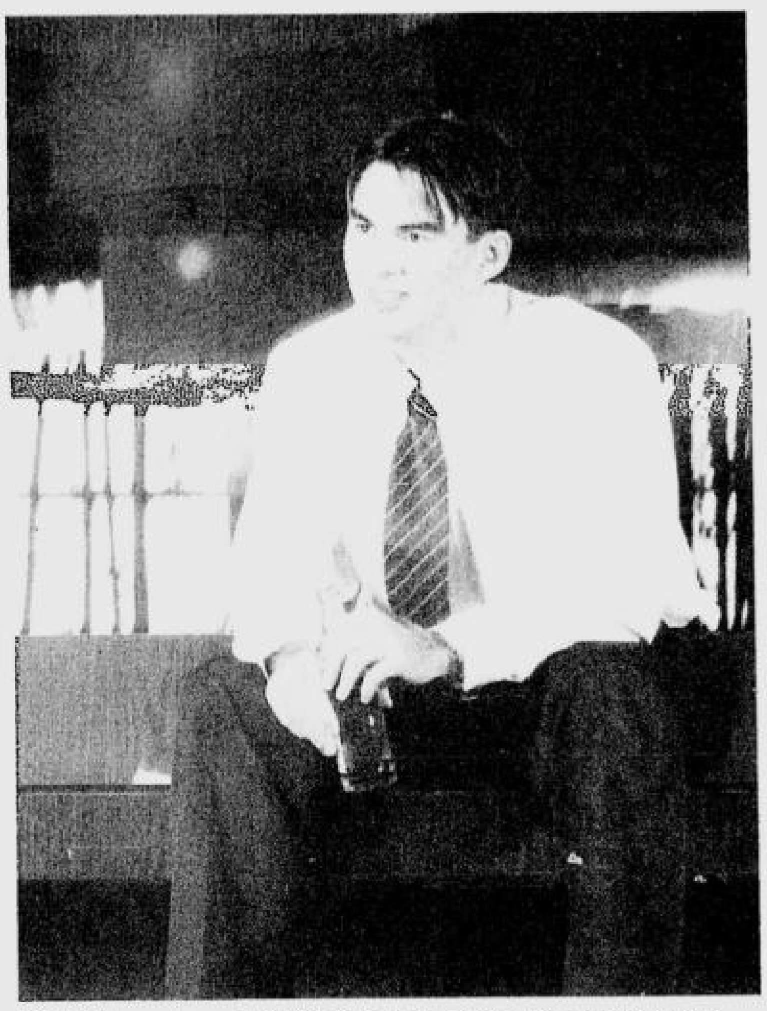

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Style overhaul tips and strapless finds

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

HELP! I need a style overhaul very badly. I'm 5'2" tall and 130 lbs heavy. I'm top- and bottom-heavy, and quite flabby to boot! I'm in my mid-30s and have three young kids. I work at home and meet clients periodically. Normally, I dress in black slacks and a white tailored top. Needless to say, I am very bored with my manner of dressing.

Is there any way I can wear more trendy and exciting but still age-appropriate clothes? I would really appreciate your suggestions on how I can jazz up my wardrobe.

The key to dressing well is in knowing yourself and dressing according to your personality, lifestyle, body type and age.

Although I am certain that you have a sense of what particular pieces look good on you, allow me to enumerate certain dos and don'ts with regard to your body type and clothing choices.

What we want to achieve is to add a little more panache to your acceptable, if unexceptional, wardrobe by introducing key pieces and colors that are trendy enough but still appropriate.

Since you are not tall and a bit on the heavy side, your aim is to elongate your appearance and to hide flaws like bulges and flab. Start by investing in a supportive underwire or minimizer bra and girdle or stomach-control panty.

Never underestimate the importance of wearing the right underwear, as this may spell the difference between being well-dressed and just plain sloppy.

Also take into consideration your choice of fabric. Structured fabrics like cotton piqué or starchy linen are best for you, as they do not hug the body. Stay away from fabrics that cling like silk jersey, as these will only emphasize your flaws.

I normally recommend that women built like you create the illusion of length by wearing monochromatic colors or a top and bottom of the same hue. But because our priority is to "jazz up" your wardrobe, I suggest that you use color, texture and prints to create different looks depending on your mood and style.

For instance, instead of wearing your plain white polo shirt with black slacks, why not don a tailored top in jewel colors like sapphire blue, ruby red or turquoise?

But do remember that different skin tones are better set off by specific hues. If you have yellow undertones as most Asians do, colors like beige, tan, orange, gold and even a certain kind of red suit you best.

But if you have pink undertones like most mestizas and Caucasians, cool colors like icy blue, lilac, white and pink complement you best.

The cut and proportion of your clothes are also important factors in making you look chic and trim (or at least trimmer than usual).

Should you choose to wear that turquoise top, make sure it's cut no longer than your first hip. Apply the same rule with your jackets and other tops. And never wear anything that's too loose.

Choose pieces that are cut close to your body and yet are not tight or body-hugging.

Since you are top-heavy and not too tall, you are probably short-waisted as well. Create the right proportion by avoiding empire cuts, wide belts and trendy obis.

Mid to low-rise pants or jeans and trousers with no waistbands or low-slung skirts will look good on you, too.

You can also update your wardrobe by investing in some of the latest trends like military wear (streamlined and stylized cargo trousers or jackets) or sporty chic apparel (hooded jackets in luxe fabrics), which have actually been in for quite some time now and are already fashion staples; some subtle graphic print tops and colored polo shirts that you can match with your basics; menswear like pinstripe trousers that are potentially slimming; and sophisticated pencil skirts (usually, A-line skirts disguise big hips better than pencil skirts, but if you can find one that is not severely tapered, then wear it by all means) worn with high heels to make you look taller.

The right kind of accessories can also elevate your style from ho-hum to extraordinary. Different colored bags and shoes can instantly add oomph to a tired, boring look.

Or you can wear chokers or cuffs made of colored stones for a whimsical feel. Whatever you decide, remember to enjoy yourself in the process of finding the more adventurous and much-improved stylish new you.

I'm planning to wear several daring evening dresses to some upcoming events, but I need to find the right bras for them. In your expert opinion, what is the best strapless bra out there? Do you also know of a strapless bra which can function as a push-up bra? One of my evening dresses is backless, and I don't think I can wear a bra with it because it digs really low in the back. What should I wear underneath?

The great news is that there are now quite a number of superior quality strapless bras that are available in the local market. What's vital is for you to find one that meets your needs.

If you are busty and voluptuous, for example, you must look for bras that give extra support and lift. Or perhaps one that minimizes the appearance and size of your breasts.

On the other hand, if you are not so gifted in the bosom department, choose a style that can make you look fuller and perkier.

Whatever the case may be, you will surely find strapless bras that you can wear with your evening dresses, thanks to the wealth of choices available in Manila.

As for strapless/push-up bras, I recommend the Wonderbra, which is available at Rustan's department store. It is slightly padded and underwired, so it makes one's breasts look naturally bigger.

It is also available in black and nude tones. But what's really good about it is that it does not easily get deformed after washing.

Marks and Spencer also has very good strapless bras. In fact, they probably have the largest selection of bra styles. If you are wearing a dress with a low back, they have multi-way bras that crisscross on your lower back so that the straps are hidden from view.

They also carry stick-on bras that you wear with the use of an adhesive. This particular style provides coverage for the breast area without the need for straps, snaps and the like, so you can wear dresses that go as low in the back as you want them to.

If you absolutely can't wear a brassiere, try wearing "Braza," a gauzy stick-on tape that can provide a bit of coverage and lift. It's normally available at Rustan's, but stocks always run low.

For other strapless finds, try Maidenform, Calvin Klein, Wacoal and Triumph.

Remember to choose a style that more or less follows the cut of your dress. If you are wearing a V-neck dress, opt for bras with a décolletage rather than a plain bandeau, which is better for straight strapless styles of dresses.

Also, do remember to wear black bras if you are wearing a black evening dress. Nothing is more unsightly than light-colored bras peeking through the fabric of your dress.

In the same vein, do not wear white or black bras when wearing a light-colored outfit. Nude-colored bras are best suited for light or pastel-hued dresses.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

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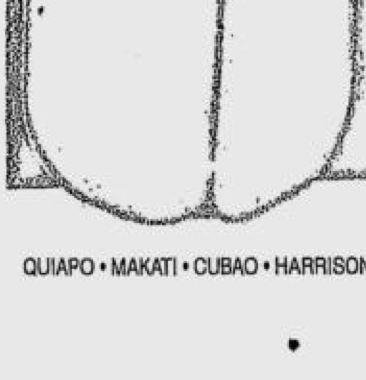
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1733 series of 2003



LIFESTYLE

Rooms with a (different) view

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

CONDOMINIUMS with a view of the bay are now a dime a dozen. But one that almost spills out into a world-class golf course is still a rarity.

Property developer Megaworld Corporation is highlighting this feature as it launches the Bellagio, a 38-story residential building right in the heart of Forbes Town Center and overlooking the picturesque Manila Golf and Country Club.

Forbes Town Center, a five-hectare joint project with Bonifacio West Development Corp., will also have a cluster of six condominium buildings aimed at upscale buyers. It forms part of the bigger Bonifacio Global City.

Architects from Recio+Casas were tapped to design the slightly curved Bellagio, a decidedly high-end offering which will consist of studio-type and one-, two-. and three-bedrooms units.

Steel and glass concoction

The building, which will be made mainly of steel, concrete and sheets of floor-to-ceiling glass, is scheduled to be finished by 2008. Most of the bigger units will have a view of the golf course and the Makati skyline beyond. Future owners of studio-type units on the other side of the building's so-called low zone will have their fill of the Bonifacio Global City skyline.

"The Bellagio will be contemporary in style," says architect Carmelo Casas. "The building will be divided into low and high zones, with separate sets of elevators in the lobby leading to each zone."

The structure's curved frame, which will set it apart from most buildings in the area, will actually lessen the glare from the harsh afternoon sun. Casas chose tinted sheets of glass in bluish green to match the color of the sky above and the grass below.

Three-meter high glass sheets will cover the gap between floor and ceiling. Future owners, however, need not worry about stray golf balls breaking their picture windows and shattering the peace on a lazy weekend afternoon.

An outdoor recreational area, which will include a landscaped garden, infinity pool, pool deck, spa and children's playground, and a 10-meter wide easement will serve as buffers between the Manila Golf and Country Club and the yet-to-be-constructed Bellagio. Indoor facilities include a gym, day-care center and a multi-purpose function room.

Buying into a lifestyle

"Since it's very near Makati and within the Bonifacio Global City, the Bellagio is designed to appeal to businessmen and executives working in these two areas," says Noli Hernandez, Megaworld's vice president for marketing. "Buying a unit will be like buying into a particular lifestyle."

It's a lifestyle that doesn't come cheaply. A swinging single will have to shell out P3.3 million for a studio-type unit (43 sq m). A one-bedroom unit (61 sq m) costs P5.5 million. A two-bedroom unit (97.5 square meters), priced between P7 million to P8 million, will be ideal for newlyweds. Couples with

ROOMS/ G2

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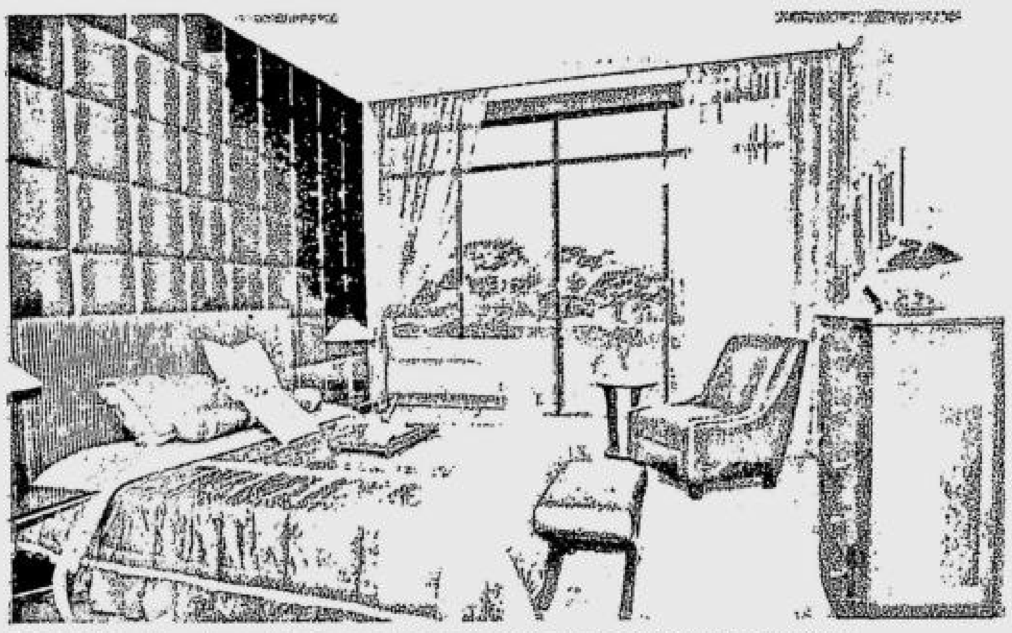
The 38-story Bellagio in the Forbes Town Center overlooks the picturesque Manila Golf and Country Club

THE LIVING room with floor-to-ceiling mirrors and a view of the Manila Golf and Country Club

Rooms with a (different) view


PADDED wall treatment in the master bedroom is made of light-brown leather.

GLASS-TOPPED table and upholstered chairs for the dining area

From page G1

growing families can get the three-bedroom units (119.5 sq m) at P10.3 million each.

Provided the usual facilities and amenities of a charmed lifestyle, developers also see the Bellagio as a future hub with a restaurant, supermarket and shopping mall not far behind. This early, workers are putting the finishing touches to a McDonald's outlet.

Developers have allotted space for a row of restaurants inspired by Bugis Junction in Singapore. They hope other business and commercial establishments will set up outlets in the building as activities in the Bonifacio Global City start to pick up in the years to come.

"People living in the area won't have to cross Edsa anymore to shop and dine," says Hernandez. "The Bellagio will have an air of exclusivity similar to some of the world's leading exclusive and self-contained communities."

The Bellagio's one- and two-bedroom model units are ready for viewing at the Forbes Grand Center "show house," directly facing the Manila Golf and Country Club at Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City.

So as not to draw attention away from the greenery outside, Megaworld's in-house architect and interior designer Astrid Cruz purposely toned down the interiors by choosing a palette of soothing earth colors—from pale yellow, beige, mocha and "mushroom."

Living mural

Several sheets of floor-to-ceiling mirrors give the living room and dining area an illusion of added space and double as a "living" mural that captures various moods depending on the time of day.

"The mirrors reflect the changing light outside," says Cruz. "The golf course also has subtle changes in hues depending on the time of day."

In keeping with the Bellagio's contemporary look, she chose upholstered and streamlined furniture pieces and glass-topped tables. Area rugs in a jigsaw of earth colors echo the shades of the walls and furniture pieces as well as define particular spaces.

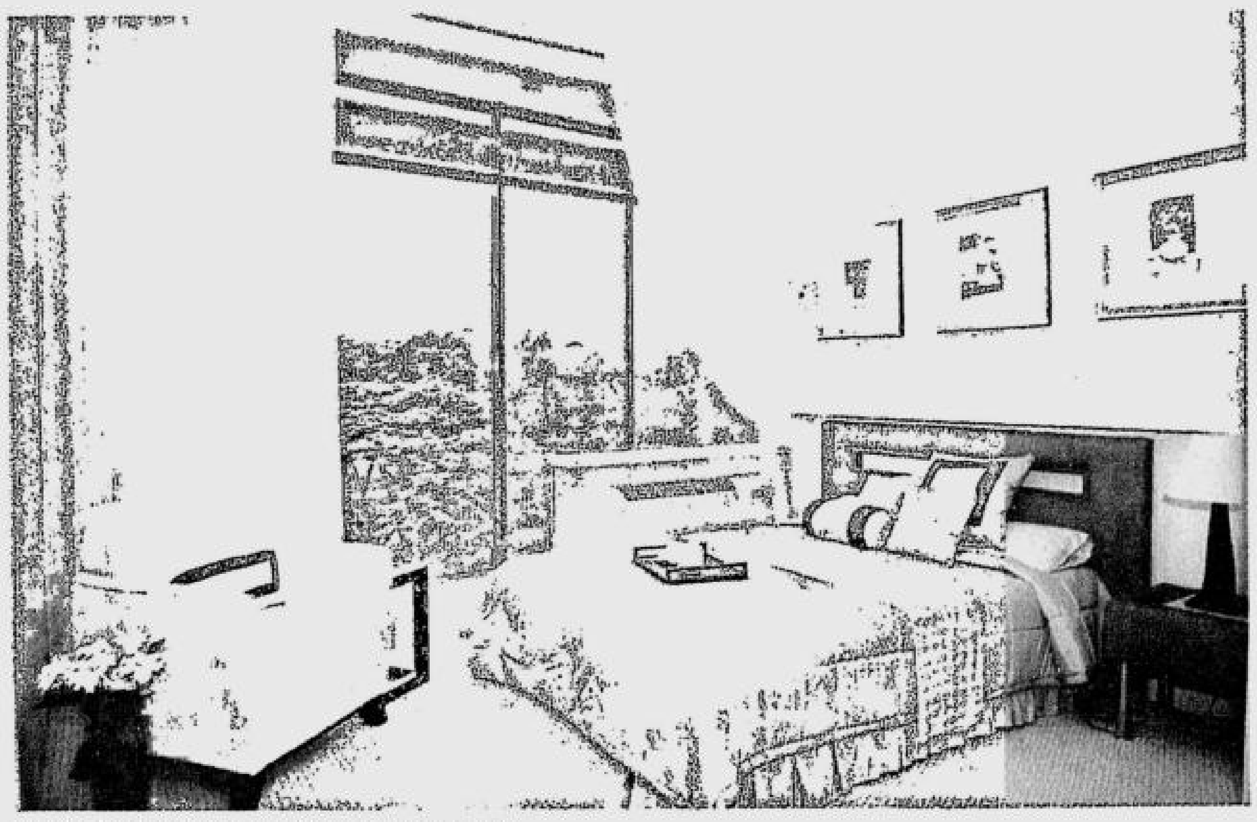
One of the master bedroom's focal points is a wall-to-wall treatment of padded light-brown leather. It gives the bedroom, says Cruz, a luxurious feel. Despite a profusion of earth tones, she's able to keep the place from looking stale through a number of devices.

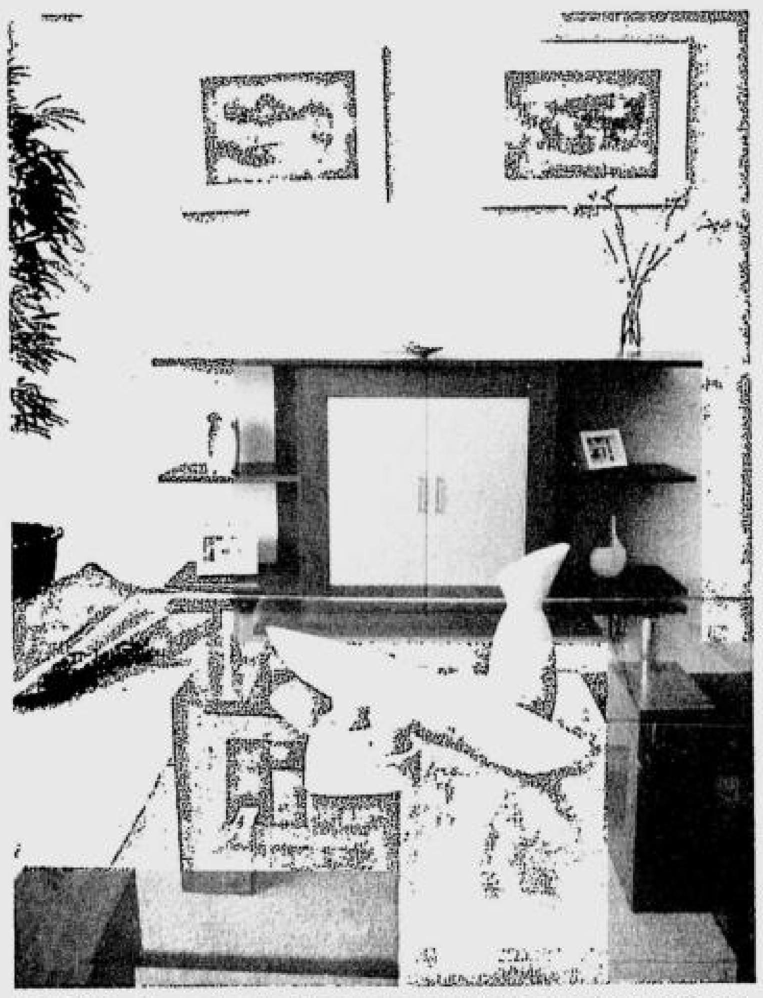
"The accent pillows, for example, come in different shapes," she says.

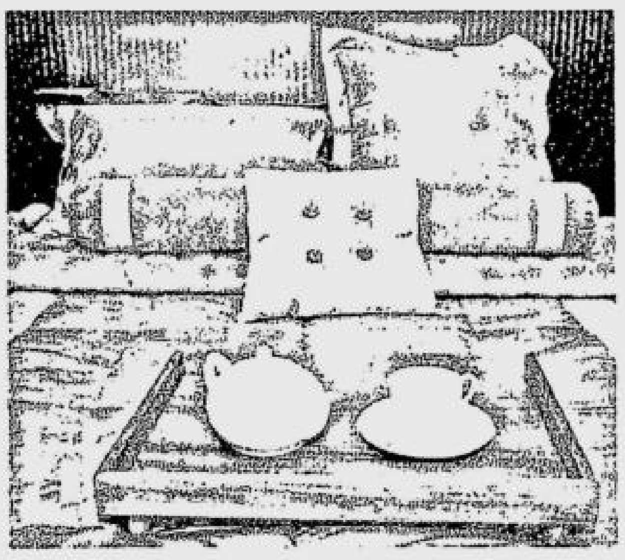
She uses a pair of glass-topped side tables painted in matte silver to keep the entire set-up, consisting of a walnut cabinet, brown padded leather chair and stool by the bed, from looking monotonous.

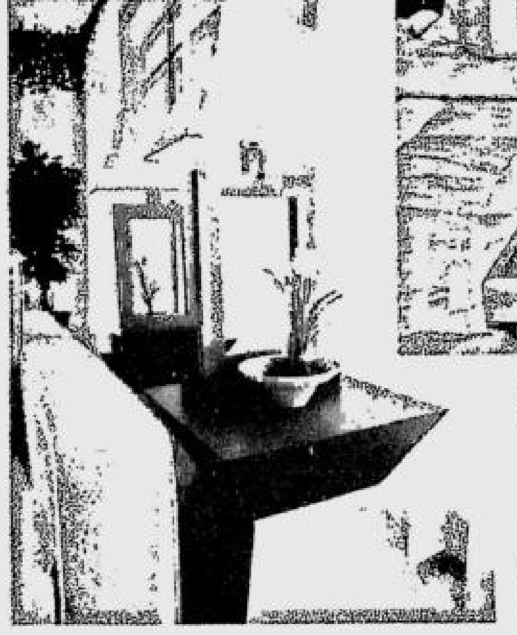
Since there was no way she could compete with the verdant view outside, Cruz also purposely toned down the use of art pieces.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph


A SMALLER bedroom also has a hotel feel to it.


EVERY furniture piece is either transparent or scaled down to size so as not to overwhelm the limited space.


PILLOWS of various shapes and sizes break the monotony of earth tones.


GEOMETRIC furniture pieces limit the clutter and give the living room a streamlined look.

A MODERN table setting

GENERATION

MODEL SEARCH WINNERS NAMED
Rhona Liz Salvador (3rd from left), 17, and James David Miles (4th from left), 16, were recently named winners of the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Model Search. Salvador was also named Best in Gown. Other winners were: Eizza Rancesca Lim (2nd from left) from Cainta, who was also named Miss Photogenic; Rod Franco (far left) from Tondo; Joel Ganaden (far right) from Naic, Cavite; and Jennifer Lee (5th from left) from Makati. Other special awardees were: Jonathan Alban–Mr. Friendship; Randy Panotes–Mr. Talent; Martin Geffrey Canlas–Mr. Photogenic and Best in Formal Wear; Charles Van Corpuz –Best in Casual Wear; and Sherif Wanas–Best in Swimwear.

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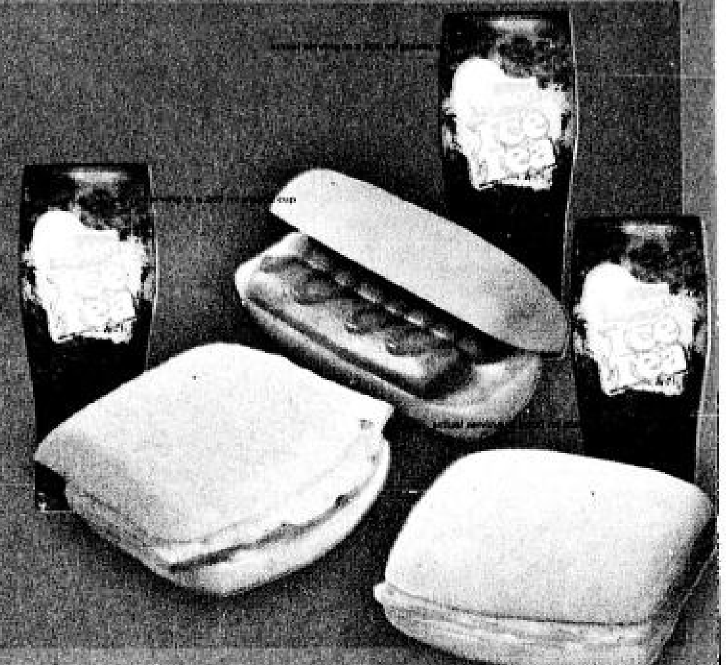

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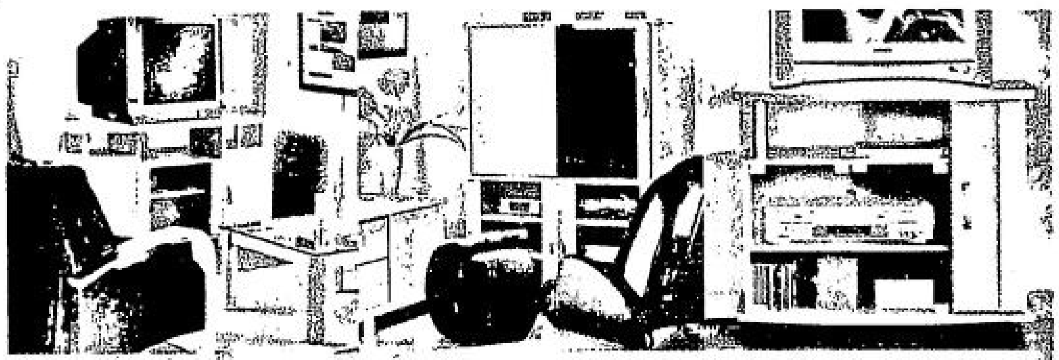

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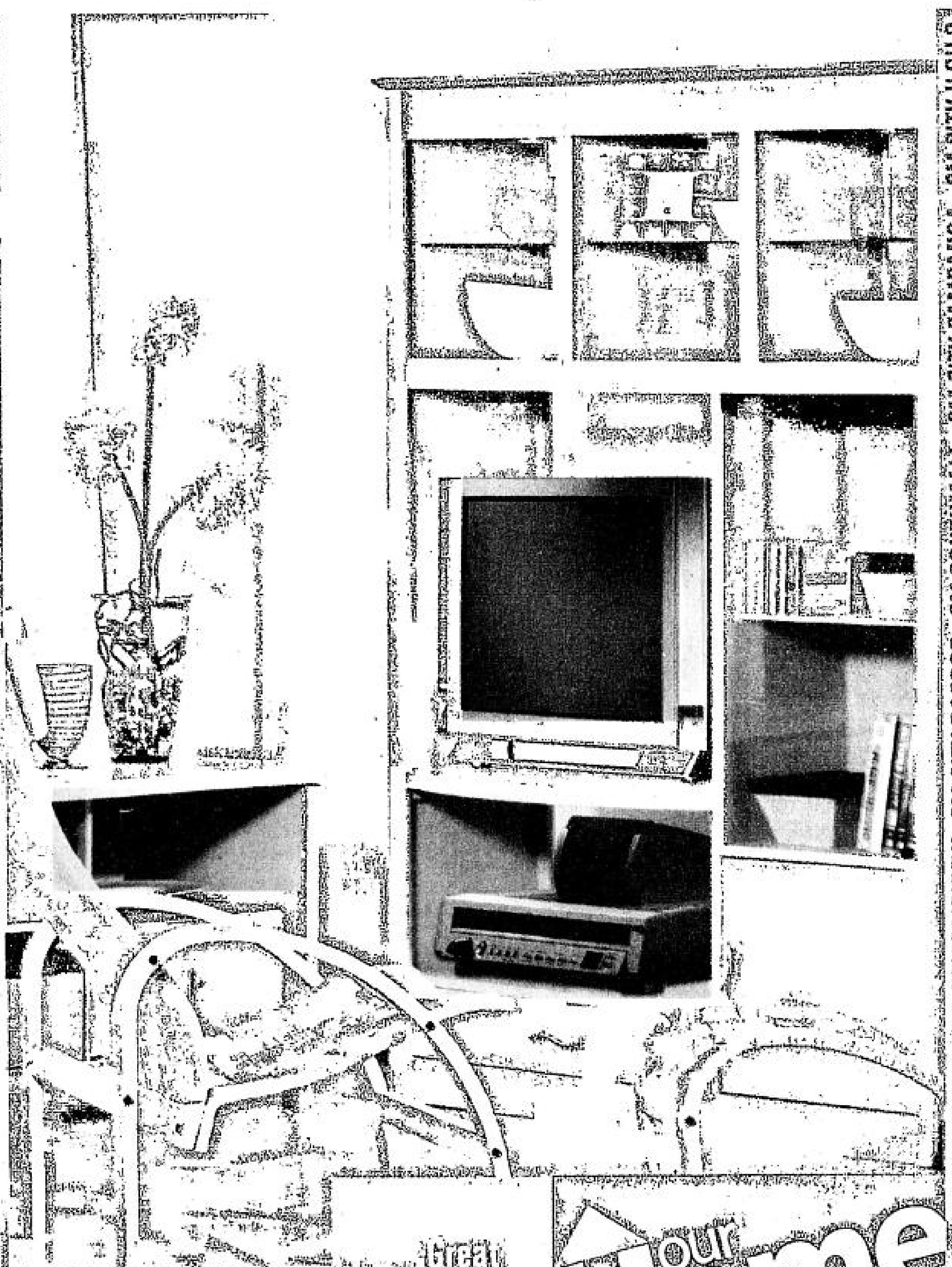

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Zoo needs 'enrichment coordinator'

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

WHEN Kathy Chua, organizer of the volunteer group called My Zoo, introduced us to her friend Mathew van Lierop, she said he was an "enrichment coordinator" at the Johannesburg Zoo in South Africa.

In the Philippines, we have veterinarians, zookeepers, volunteer guides, concerned animal lovers and several other staffers who are likely to be part of almost any zoo. But an enrichment coordinator? Who is that? we wanted to know.

Well, it's someone like Mathew and, as I soon found out, that was saying a lot, for what he does in Johannesburg certainly is needed here. The good thing is, it can be applied quite easily.

As a matter of fact, that's why he is in town, together with a colleague, Laura Ewart-Phipps, a veterinarian-nurse. Mathew was invited by My Zoo to conduct a series of talks on animal enrichment during a seven-week stay in Manila. He explains that animal enrichment primarily means helping animals deal with stress.

Animals, especially those caged and cooped up, also get stressed out just like humans. Staying in one place 24 hours a day and spoon-fed most of the time make the animals idle and lazy. These affect their behavior and, ultimately, their health.

TAKING zoo work seriously: (from left) Kathy Chua, co-founder of My Zoo Volunteer Group Foundation Inc.; Laura Ewart-Phipps, veterinary nurse of Complete Zoo Concepts, South Africa; Matthew van Lierop, enrichment coordinator of Johannesburg Zoo, South Africa; and Kitty Arce, co-founder of My Zoo Volunteer Group Foundation Inc.

A stressed-out animal can be erratic in its ways, even dangerous. So it is important to keep it busy and happy.

Keeping animals healthy

Such treatment, says Mathew, is part of the wildlife conservation process. If you want to conserve animals, keep them healthy so they can live longer. This is where the enrichment coordinator comes in.

The position is not just for anyone. It requires college training.

Mathew, for instance, graduated with degrees in conservation biology and genetics, and a Master's in Animal Behavior from the University of Witwaterstrand (pronounced Vitvaterstrant). These qualified him for his post at the Johannesburg Zoo.

Incidentally, the position was created only two years ago and he was the first to be offered the job. Animal enrichment has been practiced for almost a hundred years, he says, but developed into a science only recently. It is, of course, an even newer science in developing countries.

An enrichment coordinator must have an innate love for animals and possess the patience to work among them. He must be imaginative enough to create objects that can help teach animals how to fend for themselves. He becomes, after a fashion, a Montessori teacher who can whip up new equipment to arouse the interest and learning ability of his charges.

The equipment are hardly ever bought and they are nothing fancy. They are simple objects—balls, plastic tubes, branches from a tree—easily available and usually recycled, to serve particular purposes.

While administering to a sick animal falls under the jurisdiction of the veterinarian-nurse, the coordinator cannot detach himself completely because the well-being of the animal is very much his turf.

> Animal enrichment primarily means helping animals deal with stress

Fitness regimen

There is good reason to provide equipment for the animals who are encouraged to play and keep busy with them. The idea is to see to it that they do not become idle or lazy. This is to prepare them for the day when they are released back to the wild. That is—or should be—the ultimate goal of a zoo.

After the animals have educated and amused the public in a zoo, they must be given the chance to return to their true habitats. It is thus essential that they do not lose their natural instincts by living idly in a zoo.

Some animal-welfare groups, notes Mathew, sometimes decry the practice of keeping animals in a zoo as inhuman. Mathew takes the view that zoos are necessary, that they allow people to see animals and to appreciate and admire them.

Seeing the animals brings the message of conservation closer to people. If they see the animals in the flesh, people are more likely to understand conservation better.

Well-maintained animals are seldom kept in cages or behind bars. Modern zoos prefer to keep them in simulated or recreated natural habitats where they are allowed to roam freely so they never lose their sense of where they belong.

For the protection of the public, there are fences camouflaged to look like part of the scenery.

MATTHEW van Lierop puts antelope food in 10-sided (decahedron) plastic containers to make feeding time more "interesting" for zoo animals.

Looking after the welfare of animals in a zoo, says Mathew, is not always a matter of being kind. Sometimes, so-called "kindness" can kill, like feeding the animals too much, or giving them food not right for them, or allowing them to swallow plastic bags that can asphyxiate them, and other such practices.

To be truly kind to animals is to respect them, to make sure that they are not harmed. The equipment provided by the coordinator are, in effect, toys that the animals can enjoy even as they keep fit with them in accordance with their animal ways.

There are many "toys" that can be easily made for them, says Mathew, and he'll explain what these are next time.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

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